JOHN BULL

Vol. XV. No. 394 | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1918 | ONE PENNY

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432813
For meaning of this No. see page ii. of Cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

FIRST ROUND CONTEST

£2,000

FOR 20

CUP-TIE FORECASTS

£1,000 MUST BE WON

SEE PAGE 947.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

Every copy of JOHN BULL bears upon its cover a distinctive number, and every week FIFTY of such numbers will be drawn and PUBLISHED IN THE FOLLOWING ISSUE.

To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL *of specified date*, bearing any of such numbers, we will, upon production **within seven days** of **publication** (a reasonable extension will be allowed to foreign and Colonial claimants) of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number pay the sum of TWO GUINEAS in return for his using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation. Before the money is paid we require a full report of all the work done.

The following correct numbers have been received:—

Mr. I. COOPER, "Uplands," Station Rd., Woolwich. November 22nd. No. 549,009.

Mr. E. J. KIBBLE, 29, Broomfield St., Easthourne. November 22nd. No. 203,574.

Mr. J. WRIGHT, 51, Sussex St., Stainsby Rd., Poplar, E. November 22nd. No. 686,953.

Mr. GEO. ROUND, Church View, Annscroft, nr. Shrewsbury. November 15th. No. 648,505.

Mr. D. GOODWIN, 30, Wilmington Rd., Leicester. November 15th. No. 850,279.

Mr. W. S. FOX, 35, Chapel St., Flint, N. Wales. November 15th. No. 591,500.

Mr. JOHN BOWDEN, 2, Lake Cottages, Snaresbrook Rd., Essex. November 29th. No. 189,221.

Mr. GEO. HAYES, Snr., 9, Margate St., Totterdown, Bristol. November 15th. No. 835,350.

Mr. J. THOMPSON, 45, Albert St., Penrith. November 15th. No. 767,221.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of December 13th:—

010719	156641	389404	570873	845364
031388	171697	474164	587603	876606
046687	185320	497205	602635	882104
053585	191249	499692	635629	900462
070628	209713	451899	672540	914386
081085	262531	474164	676497	962545
102264	279185	501503	724995	986630
117340	318839	515432	761639	A001632
138858	332124	527902	773202	A008750
140832	348660	536801	814297	A01043

The A prefixed to a drawn number indicates it is plus a million.

The Fifty Numbers in respect of this week will be announced in our next issue (published on December 24th).

FIRST READ THIS.
If you predict the "Home" Team will win put in ink a X in the Home Column; if you predict the "Away" Team will win put a X in the Away Column. For Draws put a X in the Draw Column.

CUP TIE ENTRANCE FORM.

First Round to be played Saturday, Jan. 10.

HOME.	AWAY.	DRAW.	HOME TEAM.		AWAY TEAM.
			Manchester City	v.	Fulham
			Newcastle United	v.	Sheffield United
			Queen's Pk. Ran.	v.	Bristol City
			Leicester Fosse	v.	'Spurs
			Preston N.E.	v.	Bristol Rovers
			Oldham	..	Brighton
			Liverpool	..	Barnsley
			Swindon	v.	Manchester United
			Derby County	v.	Northampton
			Bradford	v.	Reading
			Millwall	v.	Chelsea
			Crystal Palace	v.	Norwich
			West Bromwich A.	v.	Grimsby
			Wolverhampton W.	v.	Southampton
			Bradford City	v.	Arsenal
			Hull City	v.	Bury
			Gainsborough	v.	Leeds City
			Glossop	v.	Everton
			Sheffield Wed.	v.	Notts County
			Portsmouth	v.	Exeter

I enter "JOHN BULL" Football Competition in accordance with the rules announced on this page and agree to accept the Editor's published decision as final and legally binding, and enter on that understanding.

Signed .....

Address .....

.....

Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.

READ RULES CAREFULLY.

NEW METHOD OF MARKING COUPON.

To safeguard the interest of our competitors we have adopted the following new rule for marking the Entrance Form:—If you predict the Home Team will win, put a X in the Home Column; if you give the Away Team to win put a X in the Away Column. For a Draw put a X in the Draw Column.

2. Having done this, write in ink (typewriting or pencilling will not do) your name and address in the space provided, cut out the Entrance Form, and address it to "John Bull," 25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C., mark envelope in top left-hand corner, **Football Cup Tie Contest** so as to reach us not later than first post Friday, January 9th.

3. The sum of £2,000 will be paid to the Competitor whose entrance form contains the correct results, as published in the *Sporting Life*, of all the matches given played to a finish on January 10th. Should it happen that no entrance form be received giving the whole of the correct results, a cash prize of £600 will be paid to the Competitor sending in the most correct forecasts, whatever the number; £300 to the sender of the next best coupon, and £100 to the sender of the most correct forecasts on a mauve coupon taken from *Mary Bull*. If the sender of a mauve coupon should win or share the £2,000 or the £600 and £300, the *Mary Bull* prize will be awarded to the sender of the next most correct forecasts sent on a mauve coupon. In the event of the £2,000 prize being won the £600 and the £300 prizes will, of course, not be awarded. The £100 mauve coupon prize will be paid in any event.

4. No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any effort. No correspondence will be entered into, neither will interviews be granted.

5. Any effort on which any alteration has been made will be disqualified.

6. In the event of a tie or ties in this Competition, the £2,000, or the contingent prizes of £600 and £300, as well as the special £100 mauve coupon Prize, will be equally divided.

7. Our employees are strictly debarred from entering this contest.

8. No coupon bearing a Scottish address can be accepted.

THE CLOSING DATE IS FRIDAY, JANUARY 9th.

DUPLICATE COUPON.

The following duplicate list of the matches is printed solely for the convenience of competitors desirous of keeping a record of their efforts. It must on no account be sent in, and will not be accepted as proof of forecasts made on the Entrance Form.

H	A	D	TEAMS	H	A	D	TEAMS
			Manchester City v. Fulham				Millwall v. Chelsea
			Newcastle U. v. Sheffield U.				Crystal Palace v. Norwich
			Queen's P.R. v. Bristol City				W. Bromwich A. v. Grimsby
			Leicester Fosse. v. 'Spurs				Wolver. Wan. v. Southampt'n
			Preston N.E. v. Bristol R.				Bradford City v. Arsenal
			Oldham v. Brighton				Hull City v. Bury
			Liverpool v. Barnsley				Gainsborough v. Leeds C.
			Swindon v. Manchester U.				Glossop v. Everton
			Derby C. v. Northampton				Sheffield Wed. v. Notts C.
			Bradford v. Reading				Portsmouth v. Exeter

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. XV. No. 394. Week ending Saturday, December 20th, 1913. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters. All **FINANCIAL, INSURANCE** *and* **SPORTING** *inquiries should be addressed to the* **CITY OFFICES, 52, NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.** *All other communications should be addressed to* **93, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.**

All remittances, applications for advertising space, subscriptions, orders, etc., should be addressed to Odhams Limited, 93 and 94, Long Acre, London, W.C.

£10 REWARD.

Wanted, the Copy of **"John Bull"** for **DEC. 13th, 1913,** bearing on its Cover the Number **078,355.**

Apply **THE MANAGER, "JOHN BULL," 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.**

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[*The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.*]

Thank You!

We have to thank our readers for the manner in which they are responding to our Christmas appeal on behalf of the poor—see page 934; but we know they will forgive us for asking for more. We have such a lot to do this year. To those who have written reminding us that we shall get £1,500 from the JOHN BULL Football Cup Sweep, we would point out that, by the terms of the gift, £500 of the amount is already allocated to our "Human Documents"—to be apportioned weekly during 1914—and that the balance is to be distributed amongst other specified charities. Please, therefore, send us money, clothing, toys, sweets, fruit, and everything else you can legally lay your hands on—and send quickly. And remember that not a penny piece goes in expenses.

Nicely Put.

A friend of ours asked Jack Johnson, the other day, "Why don't *you* challenge Carpentier?" And what do you think was the black man's answer? "*I'm far too fond of the boy.*" Many an European scholar would find it difficult to compress more unconscious strength and kindly sentiment into such a short sentence.

A Seasonable Greeting.

Owing to the Christmas holidays, our next issue will be on sale, in both London and the provinces, on Tuesday, December 23rd—just in time for you to post it to your friends instead of the conventional card.

Mrs. Pankhurst.

We crossed the Channel one day last week with Mrs. Pankhurst—who reclined on an ambulance bed, attended by two nurses; and somehow or other, despite all the folly of the "militant movement," we didn't feel particularly proud of our manhood. Perhaps it was the rough sea that upset us.

Insulting the King.

At the same time, we strongly deprecate the conduct of the women who at the Opera annoyed the King with their attentions. His Majesty, as these people are well aware, has no kind of personal responsibility for the treatment of their colleagues, and, for ought they or we know, may be in sympathy with them. And it is cowardly to attempt to fix him with responsibility for the acts of his Ministers, which, as a constitutional monarch, he is bound to endorse.

King Alfonso.

On board, too, was young Alfonso—as full of life and spirits as ever—a strange contrast with the dignity and repose of Queen Ena. Never exactly an Apollo, whatever induced him to disfigure his upper lip with that stubbly growth of face fungus? We intend to send him a safety razor for a Christmas present.

Lanark.

What piffle the Tory press is indulging in over the result of this split Party vote. And when we find Sir Edward Carson joining in the chorus—well, it almost makes us doubt his sincerity. With Mr. Bonar Law it is different. The rules of the game demand that he should hail the result as the Voice of the People—just as a slight increase in the Liberal majority at Wick was hailed by the Government as a mandate to pursue its noble work. *What* a game it is!

£5,000 Reward.

Since certain people have been kind enough to suggest that there may be something behind the story we told last week of the "Football Fraud that Failed," we hereby offer a reward of £5,000 to anyone who can prove that in connection with *any* of our Competitions—either Football, Cricket or "Bullets"—has there been any collusion between any of the prize-winners and ourselves, or that in any case the full amount of the prize money has not been *bona fide* paid over to the advertised winners, free from deduction of a penny piece. We have only to add that the persons through whose complicity the recent abortive fraud was attempted have been removed from our staff; and it was only their full confessions which saved them from a worse fate.

A Mammoth Prize.

Which reminds us to remind you to look at page 947.

£2,000 for Football Forecasts. Great New Contest This Week. See page 947.

Pie-Crust Facts.

While ever ready to scourge the sins of Capital, we cannot be oblivious to the shortcomings of Labour. To serious observers of the trend of events, the recent revolt among the railwaymen of South Wales was chiefly noteworthy for the cynical and reckless *abandon* with which the strikers rejected the pacific counsels of their own Executive and flouted the settlement of the local Conciliation Board, which, in a cooler moment, they had endorsed. To argue that the Executive were in fact wrong, and that the hours fixed by the Board had proved in practice to be excessive, is to beg a question which goes to the very root of the industrial problem. There are legitimate means of abrogating a conciliation award, and it is thus hard to find an excuse for tactics involving a flagrant breach of an express pledge. Public opinion is acutely irritated by such manifestations of instability on the part of organised Labour, and, as we have often insisted, it is to the public after all that aggrieved workers must make their ultimate appeal.

Santa Claus.

As a number of readers of the *Mail* are much concerned that the kiddies should know the truth about *Santa Claus*, the kind-hearted, white-whiskered, agile old gentleman who drops down chimneys and creeps through keyholes to fill their stockings on Christmas Eve, we have to say that he is an indubitable alien—Nicholas, ancient Bishop of Myra, in Lycia, to wit, now Patron Saint of Russia. In Germany his feast-vigil is held, not on December 24th, but on December 6th, when it is customary in public schools and nurseries for somebody arrayed as a bishop to appear in the midst and distribute gifts to the very good; the others get the Klaubauf. Santa Claus is merely Yankee for the Dutch Sankt Klaus, or St. Nicholas; and "there you are," as Mr. R. G. Knowles used to say.

Youth Will be Served.

By an emphatic vote, the Union Debating Society of Manchester University has condemned the Party system root and branch. The incident is symptomatic of the growing disgust with present day politics which is permeating all classes of the community. It is hailed by a contemporary as a sign of the "growing distrust and resentment on the part of the average man at the barren and hollow recriminations of Party strife." Just so. Hollow in pretensions and barren of result. How obvious it is to the unbiased critic, with a free pen!

Conservative Party Politics.

And talking about Party politics in general brings us to Conservative Party politics in particular, by way of the *Middlesex County Times*. We have the curious spectacle of two Conservative correspondents complaining that while Mr. Nield, M.P., and other speakers addressing a local demonstration excelled in hurling abuse at their political opponents, they were as dumb as mutes as to the future policy of the Conservative Party when they came into office. Then we have the newspaper adding its editorial voice—"Sensible people do not believe that Asquith, Lloyd George, Winston Churchill (or Bonar Law, Lord Lansdowne, and Carson) are a set of self-seeking rogues, traitors to their country, and despoilers of its God. They may be amused, or even exhilarated, by being told this in picturesque language, but they do not believe it in their hearts. The political platform, like the political press, is destroying its influence by excess of emphasis." The biggest thing the Conservative Party are up against to-day is their own negatives. Simply being "agin the Government" is not enough; you cannot enthuse a country on negatives. That is where the Business Government idea comes in.

The "Express" and Us—

Wonders never cease! Here is the *Express* coming round to our views. "There is really no reason," it said in a leading article the other day, "why the humdrum business of governments should not be run on business lines. But this is an end almost beyond the dreams of the taxpayer's avarice, for it would mean the closing down of Departments, the retrenchment of officials, a holocaust of red tape, and an entirely new spirit of alert industry in edifices now vowed to cloistered dignity and leisurely decorum. . . . Still, it makes a pleasant vision—municipalities managed on commercial lines, Government Departments organised by efficient captains of industry, even foreign affairs dealt with in a spirit of swift common sense. Lower rates, fewer taxes, much fewer officials, less interference, greater efficiency. . . ." We *are* getting on. No doubt Mr. Blumenthal, the brilliant editor of the *Express*, will now join the John Bull—shortly to be known as the Business Government—League!

And the "Daily Sketch."

And here is our good friend, the *Daily Sketch*, unconsciously airing another of our "fads." "Why not tax ginger-pop?" it asks. We put the same conundrum to the Chancellor of the Exchequer upon more than one occasion in the House of Commons—and when told that the fiscal policy of the country, so far as drinks are concerned, is to tax only luxuries, we replied that ginger-pop was a luxury—with a nasty taste. It is, in our opinion, unfair that teetotalers and non-smokers should escape nearly all indirect taxation.

A Dangerous Departure.

In the hurly-burly of political debate, a somewhat serious aspect of the Chancellor's Land scheme, as at present understood, is in danger of being overlooked. It is proposed to set up a Ministry of Lands, to which practically all disputes between landlord and tenant shall in the event of continued disagreement be automatically referred. This new Government Department—for it will be nothing more—will thus be armed with powers of adjudication now solely exercisable by the ordinary Courts of Law. It is expressly stipulated that there shall be no appeal from its decisions, and its divorce from the ordinary machinery of justice will thus be complete. The salutary constitutional rule that the acts of the Executive shall always be subject to the control of Courts independent of the fortunes of Governments is thus sharply abrogated. In their zeal for renovation, reformers are apt to have too little regard to the inherent virtue of safeguards which have stood the test of time.

A Moral for Pacifists.

It is to be hoped that Kaiser Wilhelm's active exercise of the mailed fist may serve to check the abominable military tyranny which has gripped the hapless province of Alsace-Lorraine. Meanwhile, students of European affairs may find food for reflection in the fact that the Reichstag has not hesitated to express its detestation of military excesses by a virtual vote of censure upon the Imperial Chancellor. Recent events point to a steady growth of a truer representative spirit among the erstwhile passive subjects of the Kaiser, wherein our own pacifists are wont to find reason for encouragement and hope. We have no wish to belittle their efforts towards a better understanding between the two peoples, but meanwhile it is the business of Governments to keep their powder dry. Anti-national theorists who are apt to sneer at the tragic possibilities of Teutonic supremacy will do well to ponder recent happenings in the provinces which Germany has won and held by the sword.

Mark Our Football Coupon just like a Voting Paper—With a X.

Education Minister, Attention!

The attention of Mr. J. A. Pease, M.P., Minister of Education, is hereby called to certain proceedings of the Gloucester County Education Committee. For the third time within a short period the teachers serving at the Church of England schools at Northleach have received a letter threatening to stop the pay of the whole staff because one teacher has failed to send in her Insurance card. "The Secretary begs to point out," says his latest circular, "that a sixth quarter contribution card has not been sent to the Education Committee in respect of Miss ——. Until the card is received the Committee are unable to pay the salaries and wages claimed in the current pay sheet." On the last occasion salaries and wages were held up for a whole week because the school cleaner had not obtained her card. If this is not a new game under the Insurance Act, it is at any rate new to us, and for the moment we are wondering whether the Treasury holds up the tremendous salary of Mr. Pease every time the junior penwiper or the charwoman fails to send in her Insurance card? In case of the regrettable reticence of Mr. Pease, perhaps Mr. Lloyd George will tell us.

Clean Sport.

There is a big dash of the gambler in most of us, and the tendency to back one's fancy finds varied expression. You may bet on anything, from the prospects of the Ministry to the possibility of twins, and big football events have recently afforded wide scope for the sporting proclivities of the million. In all such "flutters" confidence is a primary condition of the game, and we are glad to note that the authorities are taking active measures against certain firms of football "bookies" who have sought by fraudulent means to incline Fortune in their favour. It is alleged that in several cases the captains of well-known teams have been approached by betting firms with the suggestion that the result of a particular fixture might, with mutual profit, be "arranged." Such dirty proposals offer no temptation to a sportsman, and the promptitude with which they were spurned—always assuming report to be true—augurs well for the wholesome tone of the national game and of sport generally.

Hooting Hogs.

Mr Justice Scrutton has shown a sounder appreciation of the rights of pedestrians than was recently evinced by his brother Avory. His Lordship thinks that motorists are apt to attach too much importance to the "tooting" of horns "Other people have rights in the streets," he insists, "as well as those who blow horns and ring bells. If a foot passenger is going across the street and a motorist comes at him blowing a horn, the foot passenger is not obliged to get out of the way." The learned Judge's view of the law will command widespread approval. We agree that there is far too great a disposition on the part of a section of motorists to regard the sounding of a horn as a technical preliminary to knocking a man down, and we trust his Lordship's dictum may serve to correct this mischievous view.

How is This?

A legal pundit tells us that in the reign of Edward IV. there was a law passed, which is still unrepealed, "making it a penal offence to solicit or induce any of the King's lieges to abstain from certain foods and drinks." The foods and drinks in question are not enumerated, and we are afraid our friend goes a little too far when he continues: "Hence, though it is not illegal to take the pledge of total abstinence of one's own free will, anyone persuading a person to do so is liable to prosecution." Perhaps Sir Thomas Whittaker will, for his own protection, look up the Act.

A *Cause Célèbre*.

When husbands and wives fall out, the lawyers come by their own—or other people's—and they must have had a wonderful picking out of the suit, already briefly noticed in these columns, wherein Henry Schwartzmann, of Dalston, sought to recover a hundred pounds' worth of furniture from his undutiful spouse. The action was originally remitted from the High Court to Judge Smyly, of Shoreditch, who, after a lapse of several months, has at length delivered himself of a "considered judgment," leaving matters pretty much where they were in the beginning. In the interim, the dispute has occupied the attention of a rabbinical court—the plaintiff being of the Hebrew religion—and formed the erudite theme of a score of legal conferences. It has further invoked the personal, though abortive, arbitration of the Chief Rabbi, and the well-meant but futile intervention of an anonymous lady of high degree. We understand that the parties have already exhausted the resources of the criminal law, but it is, of course, still open to them to take the matter to the House of Lords by successive stages of appeal—after which they may decide to go home and split the difference.

Canadian Emigrants Strictly Prohibited.

Anybody who has ever doubted at any time the truth about the Great Emigration Lie, as we have been revealing it for so long, will perhaps now do us the justice of owning up. The boosted boom of Canadian emigration is "busted." The tremendous lie is knocked out as effectively as Bombardier Wells. The Dominion Government at Ottawa have passed an Order prohibiting until March 31st next the entry of all artizans and labourers to British Columbia "owing to the crowded conditions of the labour market." Even after March 31st it is 100 to 1 that artizans and labourers will do as well in this country as they will do in Canada; at any rate, it is not probable they will do worse.

Lloyd George on Toast.

Somebody has sent us a menu card of the presidential dinner of the Oxford Union Society, addressed by Mr. Lloyd George. This was the menu, prepared by the President: "Landlord Soup. Nine penn'orth of Whitebait for fourpence. Chicken Soufflé à la Brynawelon. Saddle of Mutton de Criccieth. Pheasants à la Mangel Wurzel. Budget Pudding; Sauce Ducale. The Cherry Tart of the Aristocracy. Welsh Rarebit. Rare and Refreshing Fruits." Though *Sauce Ducale* is not bad of its sort, we have the best of reasons for knowing that the right hon. gentleman likes Sauce Limehouse much better, as being more piquant.

The Black Cat.

As Sir Edward Carson was sitting on the platform in the Manchester New Theatre, waiting for his turn to speak, somebody let loose on to the stage a black cat. The dusky beast made its way to the great Ulster warrior, who gently stroked it. "Lord Derby, amid loud cheers, referred to the visit of the cat as a good omen." We hope so; for we should be sorry to think it indicated that the fur was about to fly.

Charming Candour.

The German War Minister has publicly announced that he is keeping "sharp, keen, and ready for battle the mighty weapons of the Kaiser"; while Dr. Muchlstepf, a publicist of some repute, goes further with the amiable assurance that "the indispensable factor of German progress is that the Kaiser shall tread on toes, and flout, thwart, and enrage as many people as possible." Both these compliments of the season have the charm of candour, and, anyway, it is well to know where we are. Little Navy journals, please copy!

£1,000 MUST BE WON. Great First-round Cup Tie Contest. See page 947.

Truculent Tailors.

Judge Rentoul, of the City of London Court, thus records his observations: "Tailors appear in this court as plaintiffs on judgment summonses twice as often as any other tradesmen. It is a great hardship on the debtors, as it puts more than 20 per cent. on the debt for law costs." We have no sympathy with the view that tailors, alone among traders, may be paid "this year, next year, sometime or never," but there is undoubtedly a growing tendency among a certain class of shoddy dealers to rush into Court on the slightest provocation, and to these gentry his Honour's remarks may well serve as a timely warning. Customers expressly invited to embark upon credit schemes have a clear right to the greatest consideration and to full notice of legal proceedings. The complete abolition of imprisonment for debt would do much to protect the poor from the wiles of unscrupulous touts, while involving no real hardship to honest traders.

The Breath of Life.

"If you have ever sat in a barber's chair," says a reader, "you will know what an intolerable nuisance it is to feel the operator's breath fanning your face as he plies his razor. If he wore a shield, as he ought to do, covering the nostrils and mouth and reaching down to the chin, his patrons would not be so reluctant to visit him. The shield should be light and easily fixed, and I would suggest on hygienic grounds that it should be of metal, say thin aluminium; then when not in use it could be dropped in a dish of water that had a little carbolic acid in it. If he could drop in his evil-smelling, cigarette-stained fingers at the same time——" Our friend has said enough, and we are prepared to hear the barbers unanimously protest that they are as sweet as a nut inside as well as out. However, if they feel they would like to wear a breath shield—light, handy, easily fixed, and hygienic—and also fix one on customers of their own selection, they may immediately say so, either one at once or all together.

Blunder—or Worse?

"You are discharged. Your honour is not affected in any shape or form," said Mr. R. Wallace, K.C., to Ellen Hook, who was charged at the London Sessions with stealing a handbag from a North London church. Having her arrested and secured her detention in custody since the date of the alleged theft, the police had utterly failed to make out a vestige of a case in support of the prosecution. It transpired that the defendant had taken a bag which did not belong to her in mistake for her own, and had actually returned to the church to repair her error when she was seized by the police. "Really!" exclaimed Mr. Wallace on hearing of this wanton abuse of authority. We fancy we should have expressed our view of the matter in a rather more pointed fashion.

Unscrupulous Usurers.

Certain moneylenders of the baser sort have been wont to exert a peculiarly mean form of pressure by threatening to disclose the pecuniary straits of a client to his employer. In the case of bank clerks and other persons in responsible employment, such a threat involves serious risk of dismissal, and thus constitutes a particularly cruel form of intimidation. We are glad to notice that this growing evil has not escaped the notice of Judge Howland Roberts, of the Clerkenwell County Court. Remarking upon a case where a debtor had actually suffered dismissal by this means, his Honour observed that a moneylender had no right to imperil a man's employment by applying unnecessarily at his employer's address. We agree. It were well if means could be found to check so unfair and mischievous a practice.

A Penal Misfit.

A naughty schoolboy of Stradbroke, Suffolk, who recently stole ten luscious apples, has been sharply punished by seeing his doting parent fined eleven shillings and sixpence. The majesty of the law must, of course, be vindicated, and we will not therefore stay to reflect that this impost works out at a little over a shilling an apple. It is rather our purpose to explain that there were many other ways known to the law of dealing with this wayward urchin, all of which were rejected by the wisdom of the Stradbroke Bench. For instance, they might have appealed to the imagination of the culprit by words of fearsome warning, lightly sketching a grisly gallows in dim and distant perspective. They might have put the lad on probation under the vigilant surveillance of an all-seeing police. They might even have emulated their compeers of Tottenham, who, in a far worse case of juvenile larceny, contented themselves with ordering the rearward application of a lithe and sinewy birch. They did none of these things, but preferred to visit the sin of the child upon the father—which is to fly in the face of Scripture and to make a rather bigger ass than usual of the law.

A Distinguished Demand.

Professor G. Sims Woodhead, of Cambridge University, has entered a strong plea for full inquiry into the circumstances leading up to the death of Dr. Dimock, of Wisbech, which was recently the subject of a coroner's inquest. The tragic details of the scandal are notorious, and the verdict of "suicide during temporary insanity" has done little to elucidate the mystery which enshrouds the dead man's fate. We note that the Coroner has expressed his opinion that all parties will do well to "bury the scandal in the grave." In certain circumstances there might be much to be said for this plea, but ugly rumour has been given a long start, and questions vitally affecting the interests of the people and the honour of the medical faculty have been thrust upon the public attention. With Dr. Sims Woodhead, we are inclined to hold that "searching inquiry is necessary in the interests of the living as of the dead."

How Do You Go at Forty?

At the last meeting of the Redcar Town Council, five voted for and five against the rescission of the resolution, previously passed by the Council, that men over forty years of age shall not in future be employed. On this, many of the inhabitants, presumably over or approaching the proscribed age, have plied us with the old, old query, "Is a man too old at forty?" It all depends, of course. We know men who at 40 are 75, and others at 75 who are about 19. In general, the 40 age-limit is merely silly. If the State, the Church, the Army, the Law, Industry and Commerce all started sacking the man of 40, the country would be at a standstill and most of the members and officials of the Redcar Town Council, we imagine, would have to sack themselves. The old saying is that at 40 a man is either a fool or a physician. To do him justice, he generally becomes a physician.

Braid and Buttons.

In the High Road, Tottenham, the other day two children of the combined ages of 2½ years were amusing themselves outside a little greengrocer's shop, kept by their father, by playing with a few handfuls of cork dust from a grape box. An inspector on the beat saw them, reported the case to the authorities, and the greengrocer has since received two official warnings as to the heinousness of "allowing children to assist in the business." Well might a great lawyer exclaim, "Please govern us as little as possible!"

Another Special and Extra Mauve Coupon Prize—£100 This Time. See page 947.

We beg to Ask—

Some time ago Mr. Arthur Newton got into trouble over a message conveyed through him to ourselves by the man Crippen, whilst awaiting execution. A few days ago we read in the *Star* that the Post Office Savings' Bank had received a letter from a man whose name they printed, written from Hull Prison, and worded as follows: "Please forward me my bank book to the above address, as I am staying here for a day or two." How comes it that our contemporary has access to a prison letter written to a Government Department; and what justification was there, in any case, for reviving the fact of the unfortunate man's trouble?

Funny Files.

Somerset House would appear to be an unpromising field for the lover of a laugh. Amongst its musty records, however, will be found those of a concern entitled "Aidall, Ltd.." of 228, Gray's Inn Road, W.C., whose "objects" as set out in its official documents afford amusing reading. It does not belie its name, for a small part of its intended activities are "To lend money and negotiate loans, and to *form*, promote and assist *persons*, syndicates and partnerships of all kinds." And of its remarkably small issued capital of £1,000, all but £21 is held by two married ladies!

The Rev. Hyma Henry Redgrave.

This person is deprived of his living at St. Paul's, Burslem, only. He is still, therefore, a priest and spiritual guide, although he has been convicted of "immoral conduct"! And people wonder that the churches are empty!

The Week's "Chestnut":—

HE (*surveying the billowy sea*): "One Scripture text always comes into my mind during these trips."

SHE: "'They that go down to the sea in ships'?"

HE: "No. 'Cast thy bread upon the waters.'"

RHYMES OF THE TIMES.

SIGNS OF THE SEASON.

Christmas is coming, I know it;
Symptoms on every hand show it;
Eager crowds gaze
At shop-window displays
That tempt one's extravagance—blow it!
The air has a tang
That says: "Prudence, go hang!
For once in a while let us 'go it'!"
Yes!
Christmas is coming: I know it.

Christmas is coming: I feel it;
Signs all around us reveal it,
Folks whose delight
Is to be impolite
Somehow contrive to conceal it—
Porters and such
With servility touch
Their hats—and your heart, though you steel it;
Ah!
Christmas is coming: I feel it.

Christmas is coming: I scent it;
Memory sweetness has lent it.
Think of the joys
That it brought us as boys
In the happy old homes where we spent it!
So let's do our best
For the poor and distrest—
You bet! we shall never repent it!
For
Christmas is coming: I scent it!

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

["Taking the Biscuit" has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.]

For reporting Mr. Asquith as stating that: "Having accomplished as he thought some great purpose, and being on the eve of accomplishing others, they were yet ready and eager to start, as they were about to start, upon a new enterprise, not less FRUITLESS *as they hoped and believed, in the best interests of the mass of the people of this country,"*

THE EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

*For publishing a penny edition of "Webster's Dictionary," in which the meaning of "Fidelity" is given as "*UNFAITHFULNESS,"

MESSRS. WARD, LOCK & CO., LTD.,
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "After a remarkable November, which for mildness would be hard to beat, we have entered on the month of the LONGEST DAY *and the* SHORTEST NIGHT,"

THE MANSFIELD AND NORTH NOTTS ADVERTISER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the redundancy in the statement that: It was RAINING VERY HEAVILY *at the time of the eviction, and* IT WAS WET,"

THE TYRONE COURIER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its report of the visit of the Lord Chancellor to Bristol that: "His lordship chatted the whole way from the train to the conveyance, but this did not prevent him FORGETTING *the porter who carried his portmanteau, and the douceur was accompanied by one of Lord Haldane's sunny smiles,"*

THE BRISTOL TIMES AND MIRROR
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "The BEST *needleworkers in the world are the Japanese, their only* EQUALS *being the women of Russia,"*

THE FAMILY HERALD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "Mr. Lionel W. Harris, of Hartley Manor, Longfield, Kent, sends to the 'Express' a sprig of APPLE *blossom which he cut yesterday from a Blenheim* ORANGE-TREE,"

THE DAILY EXPRESS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in an article published in the "Irish Presbyterian" that: "We have missed the fun of lying for seven days like a primeval savage on our back in the sun, thinking of nothing, while the INNUMERABLE LAUGHTER *of the sea waves* STRETCHED AROUND US AS FAR AS THE EYE COULD SEE,"

MR. J. EDGAR PARK
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "Sir Thomas Lipton, while NOT *a Scot* BORN *and* BRED, *may yet be included in the list of successful Northerners on account of the fact that he was* BORN IN GLASGOW, *and brought up in an atmosphere essentially Scottish,"*

THE DAILY RECORD AND MAIL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

HALF-A-CROWN FOR EVERY "BISCUIT" PUBLISHED.

We give 2s. 6d. to the sender of every "Biscuit" published. Should the same item be forwarded by several competitors, preference will be given to the one whose letter is first opened. In forwarding newspaper cuttings, sufficient must be sent to identify the name of the paper and date of issue. Envelopes must be addressed to "The Biscuit Editor"

"Bullets," the POPULAR Word Competition—5,323 Cash and Other Prizes Weekly.

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A reference to the files of this journal—and we are careful to note only the very worst class of case—would furnish such a list of Church scandals during the past few years as would make every decent secularist blush; whilst we agree with Mr. Bernard Shaw that if the respective statistics of "immorality" in Church and Stageland could be correctly compiled, the theatrical world would have no cause to be ashamed. Indeed, it is quite refreshing to take up our daily paper and find no charge against a parson or a "Church worker." Here is a clergyman convicted and sent to prison for a filthy outrage upon lads *whom he was preparing for confirmation*; here is another being "unfrocked" for misconduct; here is another sent to prison for cruel and calculating fraud; here is a vicar dying in the embraces of a painted Jezebel—whilst away for "a rest from overwork"; and here are Bible-readers, Sunday-school teachers, choristers and others galore, all "up" upon charges of "gross indecency," and even more serious offences; whilst only a few days ago a Hounslow curate had an affiliation order made against him at the instance of a nineteen-year-old servant—the intimacy taking place whilst the rev. gentleman's wife and daughter were *at the Bishop of London's ball*! And in the light of these astounding and revolting facts, Dr. Ingram has the hypocrisy—we can use no milder term—to pose, with the Bishop of Kensington, Meyer the mud-raker and others, as guardian of public morality and censor of the people's amusements! And all the while respectable people are becoming nervous of allowing their wives and daughters, and even their sons, to come into contact with the professional clergy and their "workers."

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But even here we find the Bishop and his colleagues talking with their tongues in their cheeks. Listen to this piffle, from a Guildhall speech: "Everyone present should thank God for the purity of his daughters, the chastity of his home and the honour of his wife, for he owes all that to living in a Christian country." Has the Bishop ever read of the Roman Empire, and of the proud boast, "*Civis Romanus sum*"? or of Cæsar's wife? Does he remember that the late Archbishop of Canterbury said that Christian England is debauching whole populations of heathen? And when he proceeds: "The streets of London fling temptation broadcast before youth and inexperience, and our medical authorities speak of a river of poison flowing into the blood of this nation"—what about the blessings of "living in a Christian country" then? Let us follow some of the other advantages which we derive from "living in a Christian country." The Bishop shall tell us, and this time we will go to his speech at the Willesden Hippodrome. He gave us this sketch of the life of the working classes: "A nice, cosy little home, with a tidy, hard-working little wife, and dear little children, freshly washed, all waiting for father to come in. Then the man comes, doesn't say where he has come from, cuffs the children, curses the wife, knocks over the furniture, scowls, swears, and spoils that little picture and turns a heaven into a hell." There is a pretty object-lesson for the heathen, in the blessings of "living in a Christian country"! But the Bishop had not finished his illustrations. "There were the most awful things going on, on both sides of the Atlantic, but they could not have State regulation." So, you see, the blessings of "living in a Christian country" are the same in America as here. Then the Rev. Silvester Horne had a go, and in the presence of the Bishop he told the audience that "there were social conditions in and out of London that made personal purity and modesty almost impossible." And, lest Dr. Ingram should not have made it clear that in all parts of the Kingdom were the blessings of "living in a Christian country" identical, he added, "the conditions under which people live in the country, too, must stain and mar the country girl before she comes to London." Now, just reflect that this is the confession of two professional Christian guides, after two thousand years of their faith, and on the eve of the celebration of the birth of its Founder.

THE BISHOP'S DILEMMA.

But, of course, they have their answer. And what, in the name of all that is decent, do you think it is? "We had been given a very good world, and if we had made a mess of it the fault was man's, and not God's." That is downright unadulterated blasphemy and unmitigated humbug. What would be said of the head of a family, every girl and boy of which was living in open immorality—in "awful" conditions—"stained and marred"—who declared: "I have given them a good home, and if they have made a mess of it, the fault is theirs, not mine"? And does not the Bishop see that when he says the fault is entirely that of mankind, he is saying in plain words that all the teaching and all the preaching of the Church has been of no avail; and that so far from it having been an advantage "to live in a Christian country," we have, despite our Bishops and our parsons, "made a mess of it"?

But there is another aspect of the matter. Let us assume that an omnipotent and beneficent Providence is unwilling to stop immorality, drunkenness, the breaking up of little homes, the "clouting" of little children, and the cursing of "tidy, hard-working little wives"; let us assume that, although made in the image of God, we were so badly made as to tumble to pieces at the first touch of Satan; let us assume that it is part of the divine scheme of things that we are all free to go to the dogs (God bless them!) if we like, and unless our own human wisdom saves us—and let us admit that the Church has been powerless to guide us aright—*what has the Rev. Silvester Horne been doing in Parliament these past five years?* Turning his eyes heavenwards and doing the turkey trot through the division lobbies, at the behest of the Party whip!

And whilst such is the state of the world, the Bishop of London, instead of looking after his own job—*i.e.*, the discipline and conduct of the clergy of his diocese (a job which we have shown demands all his attention)—goes prowling about the music-halls, measuring the length and endeavouring to penetrate the texture of the *lingerie* of Gaby Deslys, and straining his ears for a possible *double entendre* of Marie Lloyd! Talk about fiddling whilst Rome was burning! Of the twentieth century it will some day be written that the Bishop of London sat in the stalls of a music-hall whilst the capital of Christendom was capitulating to the Devil.

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GUARDIANS' CHAIRMAN AND THE HOXTON WIDOW.

It will be remembered that in a recent issue we called attention to the case of the widowed woman of Hoxton, who, it was alleged at an inquest on her husband, had been grossly insulted in her poverty and distress by a relieving officer of the Shoreditch Guardians. The allegation, we said, was that when she applied for relief for herself and children after the death of her husband, he refused, saying that she must take her children into the workhouse, and that on her replying that she did not wish to break up her home, he retorted, "*Your home! What is it? Only a broken table and a chair; that would not want much breaking up.*" We proceeded to comment:—

> A relieving officer who goes about his work in this way, insulting and taunting the destitute, badly wants reminding of his duty. In this case the woman's husband had died after a long illness, during many weeks of which the income had consisted of 5s. 6d. earned by a 15-year-old daughter, the mother earning the 3s. rent by charing; and it was stated at the inquest that she "had to beg a cup of tea and food for her husband in his dying hours."

We have now received the following letter from Mr. Sholto Douglas, the Chairman of the Guardians:—

> In your current issue you ask, "Have the Shoreditch Guardians considered the allegations against one of their relieving officers, etc.?"
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> As Chairman of the Board, I may inform you that we have considered these charges and found them untrue in every particular. The deceased, who was only 42 years of age was well-connected and was generously assisted by his relations. He had done no work for years, was a dipsomaniac, and died of heart failure, following alcoholic neuritis. He refused to remain in the Infirmary.
>
> His family received outdoor relief in kind, but as showing they were not in want, I may mention that they did not trouble to cook the food.
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> Their rooms were not in a dwelling-house, but formed part of a workshop and were in a most filthy and neglected condition. An offer to take the children away from their disgusting surroundings and place them in the Cottage Homes at Hornchurch (where they would be brought up properly and free from any taint of pauperism) was refused.
>
> The real "grievance" lies in the fact that we would not give outdoor relief in cash. In such cases we exercise our discretion, and in the present instance it was exercised properly. The individuals who made the allegations at the inquest had the opportunity of appearing before the Board, but for obvious reasons preferred not to attend.

With every respect to Mr. Sholto Douglas, we do not think his letter answers the allegations against the relieving officer, with whom our paragraph was concerned, answer what else it may. It may be—we accept the statement of Mr. Douglas for the fact—that the woman's husband was a dipsomaniac. It may be that he died of alcoholic neuritis. It may be that he refused to remain in the workhouse infirmary. It may be that the place in which the family lived was not a house but part of a workshop, and it maybe that it was in a filthy and neglected condition. The question is, "When this widowed woman appealed to the relieving officer for relief, did he insult her by saying what he is alleged to have said?" If he did insult her, we ask Mr. Douglas, as Chairman of Guardians of the Poor, whether he thinks it was a right or feeling thing to do and one which should be allowed to pass without severe rebuke on the part of the Board? According to him, the grievance lies in the refusal of the Board to give outdoor relief in cash, as the family were not in want. What was the income available for this dying "dipsomaniac," his wife, and the children, may we ask? And if the Board in its discretion, exercised no doubt on the report of the relieving officer, refused to give relief in cash, what were they giving in kind when, so it is said, the wife soon to be widowed had to "beg a cup of tea and food for her husband in his dying hours"? What was said at the inquest may be all deliberate lies, as Mr. Douglas practically avers. In that case it is strange somebody from the Board of Guardians did not appear at the inquest to contradict them, for the particularity of the allegations certainly suggests the truth. Of course, we do not vouch for them, any more than we vouch for the correctness of the form, or the adequacy of the evidence, or the justice of the conclusions of the "inquiry" instituted by Mr. Douglas and his colleagues.

ONLY A PRISONER!

GAOL OFFICIALS CONCEAL THE TRUTH.

Considerable mystery surrounds the fate of Albert Davis, who, as already mentioned in these columns, died in Bedford Gaol on the 4th of October last. At the coroner's inquest, Dr. Skelding, the Medical Officer of the prison, declared that Davis had steadily refused food, and had died of exhaustion, consequent upon self-starvation. It appeared that artificial feeding had not been attempted, and that the prisoner had simply been allowed to die. No report of his condition was made to the Home Secretary, who might have intervened to prevent the suicide of a youth of twenty-one.

In these circumstances, unusual interest attached to correspondence which has passed between the father of the deceased and the Governor of Bedford Gaol. We are bound to say that the Governor's letters are both callous in tone, and lamentably illiterate in style, from which we infer that he has not thought fit to give the matter his personal attention. Here is one of the pretty epistles which the Governor sends out over his name:—

> I have to inform you in reply that Reg. No. 5, Albert Davis the prisoner who died on the 4th inst., from acute diarrhœa and pleurisy not hunger strike.
>
> Was buried in the Cemetery at Bedford on Wednesday the 8th inst., had webbed toes on both feet, gave the age 21, no friends, borned at Stafford, his height was 5 ft. 1" and thick set.
>
> He was convicted 15-9-08 at Saffron Walden Petty Sessions, Stealing Shears as Albert Buster, one month.
>
> Has several convictions.

What is the meaning of the radical discrepancies between the contents of this fine sample of the epistolary art and the evidence tendered at the coroner's inquest? If, as the Governor now states, Davis did not die from the effects of a "hunger strike," why did he sit quietly at the inquest and allow it to be assumed that he did? When before the Coroner, Dr. Skelding, who claimed to have given close attention to the prisoner's condition, dwelt at length upon his refusal to take food, and stated, in the clearest terms that his untimely death was traceable to this cause. Neither the Governor nor the doctor made mention of the diseases now assigned as the causes of death. If the letter we have quoted is to be taken as an accurate version of the unfortunate affair, it is clear that evidence of vital importance was withheld from the Coroner. Why?

THE TOWN CLERK'S CHRISTMAS BOX.

SOME STOKE NEWINGTONITES' "HAPPY NEW YEAR."

Accepting the statement of one of the speakers at a recent meeting of the Stoke Newington Ratepayers' and Electors Association, 4,000 ratepayers apply every quarter to the justices to be "allowed a little more time in which to pay their rates." On the 24th December last year the Town Clerk of Stoke Newington, Mr. George Webb, was delivered of a splendid idea for making Christmas and New Year happy in some of the ratepayers' homes in the borough. "Sir or Madam," wrote this delightful official, "Unpaid Rates. I beg to inform you that the broker having made a return to the warrant of distress issued against you of no sufficient goods, an application will be made to the magistrates, at a sitting to be held at the Library Hall, Edwards Lane, Church Street, on Wednesday, 1st January, 1913, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, for a warrant to commit you to prison, pursuant to statute, for a period not exceeding three calendar months, unless in the meantime the above rates are paid." It is not within our present knowledge whether or not this charming *litterateur* contemplates sending out souvenirs of the sort this Christmas, but if so we suggest that their general appearance should be more suggestive of the festivities commonly associated with the season. If they were printed in three or four colours, decorated with designs of holly and mistletoe, and dispatched in pink or blue tie-ups, they would probably be more highly valued than they were last year, especially if he could see his way to alter the subscription to, say, "Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, I am, dear sir or madam, Your affectionate friend, George Webb, Town Clerk." May Mr. Webb enjoy his pudding!

The Biggest Football Prizes ever offered—£2,000, £600, £300, £100—£1,000 MUST BE WON.

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>
> The real "grievance" lies in the fact that we would not give outdoor relief in cash. In such cases we exercise our discretion, and in the present instance it was exercised properly. The individuals who made the allegations at the inquest had the opportunity of appearing before the Board, but for obvious reasons preferred not to attend.

With every respect to Mr. Sholto Douglas, we do not think his letter answers the allegations against the relieving officer, with whom our paragraph was concerned, answer what else it may. It may be—we accept the statement of Mr. Douglas for the fact—that the woman's husband was a dipsomaniac. It may be that he died of alcoholic neuritis. It may be that he refused to remain in the workhouse infirmary. It may be that the place in which the family lived was not a house but part of a workshop, and it maybe that it was in a filthy and neglected condition. The question is, "When this widowed woman appealed to the relieving officer for relief, did he insult her by saying what he is alleged to have said?" If he did insult her, we ask Mr. Douglas, as Chairman of Guardians of the Poor, whether he thinks it was a right or feeling thing to do and one which should be allowed to pass without severe rebuke on the part of the Board? According to him, the grievance lies in the refusal of the Board to give outdoor relief in cash, as the family were not in want. What was the income available for this dying "dipsomaniac," his wife, and the children, may we ask? And if the Board in its discretion, exercised no doubt on the report of the relieving officer, refused to give relief in cash, what were they giving in kind when, so it is said, the wife soon to be widowed had to "beg a cup of tea and food for her husband in his dying hours"? What was said at the inquest may be all deliberate lies, as Mr. Douglas practically avers. In that case it is strange somebody from the Board of Guardians did not appear at the inquest to contradict them, for the particularity of the allegations certainly suggests the truth. Of course, we do not vouch for them, any more than we vouch for the correctness of the form, or the adequacy of the evidence, or the justice of the conclusions of the "inquiry" instituted by Mr. Douglas and his colleagues.

ONLY A PRISONER!

GAOL OFFICIALS CONCEAL THE TRUTH.

Considerable mystery surrounds the fate of Albert Davis, who, as already mentioned in these columns, died in Bedford Gaol on the 4th of October last. At the coroner's inquest, Dr. Skelding, the Medical Officer of the prison, declared that Davis had steadily refused food, and had died of exhaustion, consequent upon self-starvation. It appeared that artificial feeding had not been attempted, and that the prisoner had simply been allowed to die. No report of his condition was made to the Home Secretary, who might have intervened to prevent the suicide of a youth of twenty-one.

In these circumstances, unusual interest attached to correspondence which has passed between the father of the deceased and the Governor of Bedford Gaol. We are bound to say that the Governor's letters are both callous in tone, and lamentably illiterate in style, from which we infer that he has not thought fit to give the matter his personal attention. Here is one of the pretty epistles which the Governor sends out over his name:—

> I have to inform you in reply that Reg. No. 5, Albert Davis the prisoner who died on the 4th inst., from acute diarrhœa and pleurisy not hunger strike.
>
> Was buried in the Cemetery at Bedford on Wednesday the 8th inst., had webbed toes on both feet, gave the age 21, no friends, borned at Stafford, his height was 5 ft. 1" and thick set.
>
> He was convicted 15-9-08 at Saffron Walden Petty Sessions, Stealing Shears as Albert Buster, one month.
>
> Has several convictions.

What is the meaning of the radical discrepancies between the contents of this fine sample of the epistolary art and the evidence tendered at the coroner's inquest? If, as the Governor now states, Davis did not die from the effects of a "hunger strike," why did he sit quietly at the inquest and allow it to be assumed that he did? When before the Coroner, Dr. Skelding, who claimed to have given close attention to the prisoner's condition, dwelt at length upon his refusal to take food, and stated, in the clearest terms that his untimely death was traceable to this cause. Neither the Governor nor the doctor made mention of the diseases now assigned as the causes of death. If the letter we have quoted is to be taken as an accurate version of the unfortunate affair, it is clear that evidence of vital importance was withheld from the Coroner. Why?

THE TOWN CLERK'S CHRISTMAS BOX.

SOME STOKE NEWINGTONITES' "HAPPY NEW YEAR."

Accepting the statement of one of the speakers at a recent meeting of the Stoke Newington Ratepayers' and Electors Association, 4,000 ratepayers apply every quarter to the justices to be "allowed a little more time in which to pay their rates." On the 24th December last year the Town Clerk of Stoke Newington, Mr. George Webb, was delivered of a splendid idea for making Christmas and New Year happy in some of the ratepayers' homes in the borough. "Sir or Madam," wrote this delightful official, "Unpaid Rates. I beg to inform you that the broker having made a return to the warrant of distress issued against you of no sufficient goods, an application will be made to the magistrates, at a sitting to be held at the Library Hall, Edwards Lane, Church Street, on Wednesday, 1st January, 1913, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, for a warrant to commit you to prison, pursuant to statute, for a period not exceeding three calendar months, unless in the meantime the above rates are paid." It is not within our present knowledge whether or not this charming *litterateur* contemplates sending out souvenirs of the sort this Christmas, but if so we suggest that their general appearance should be more suggestive of the festivities commonly associated with the season. If they were printed in three or four colours, decorated with designs of holly and mistletoe, and dispatched in pink or blue tie-ups, they would probably be more highly valued than they were last year, especially if he could see his way to alter the subscription to, say, "Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, I am, dear sir or madam, Your affectionate friend, George Webb, Town Clerk." May Mr. Webb enjoy his pudding!

The Biggest Football Prizes ever offered—£2,000, £600, £300, £100—£1,000 MUST BE WON.

THE CARPENTIER BUNKUM.

CAN HE REALLY BOX?—RECENT SUCCESSES EXPLAINED.

By an Expert.

I am not of those who moan over our so-called degeneracy, neither do I promptly endeavour to "pick holes" in those who beat us; but the above question struck me as needing a better answer than that given by the result of the recent Wells-Carpentier fight. In a little over a minute—73 seconds, to be precise—the "white hope" of England, struck by a couple of body blows, crashed to the ground and was counted out.

The smiling boy (as he has been well christened by the *Daily Mail*) stood back, "muscle in clean, pliable layers everywhere, his dark" (come! come!) "flesh glossy with health." Giving his adversary an advantage of five years' experience, 3½ inches in height, 1 st. 5 lbs. in weight and 5 ins. in reach, Carpentier knocked him out three rounds sooner than he did at Ghent. Marvellous!

But is it really so?

Wells is a man more remarkable for his good nature and pluck than a pugilist. He accounted, it is true, for Mahoney, Pat O'Keefe and Gunner Moir—the last-named being out of condition; but when up against Alf Palzer and Gunboat Smith he succumbed immediately.

Now for Carpentier and his record. 1911 was his year, and in it he was proclaimed a prodigy. He won much money, spent it in opening a café for his parents and became a lady's man. Then came 1912, and also Frank Klaus the "Pittsburg bear-cat"—not to mention Billy Papke. In his match with the former his manager threw up the sponge; with the latter he was knocked out and refused a return match because, as he pathetically put it, "it *hurt*" to fight him.

M. Decamps, his impresario, was, however, a wily bird. His salary depended on George's muscular prowess, and he was not going to lose that in a hurry. So he determined to be more careful in future, and in 1913 Carpentier met and beat the following individuals:

(1) Marcel Moreau. An indifferent boxer, but rough and tough, with everything to gain and nothing to lose by the encounter.
(2) Bandsman Rice.
(3) The nigger Gunther, who gave him a lot of trouble.
(4) His adversary of the other night.
(5) Laurie.
(6) Jeff Smith, whom he fought for twenty rounds to get a doubtful decision on points.

From this data the reader can form his own opinion, but it is sufficient to prove that Carpentier is far from a fistic phenomenon, and that by defeating Bombardier Wells in a £4,000 match he was only beating an indifferent boxer, of a calibre lower than his own.

A SLUGGISH FIRM.

SLOW WORK AND A FAST GRIP.

Messrs. Shaw and Stead, auctioneers and debt-collectors, of Blackfriars Street, Manchester, appear to enjoy an almost Oriental belief in the virtues of procrastination. A Keighley reader, attracted by a press advertisement, commissioned the firm to collect a long-standing debt of £4, and forwarded them the debtor's I.O.U. for this purpose. He was invited to give them written authority to take all necessary steps, including resort to legal proceedings, but having regard to the smallness of the amount involved he very properly declined to bind himself in this way. He tells us that he has learnt that the collectors have succeeded in extracting about a sovereign from the debtor, which, in view of the fact that they started about fifteen months ago, is a poor sort of testimony to their much advertised activities. Moreover, for some cause, they appear to be loth to part with the money. We have no reason to impugn the integrity of the firm, and it is therefore the more regrettable that they should wantonly disregard the wishes of their client with regard to the disposition of money to which, beyond their commission, they have no claim. The collection of just debts is best kept in the hands of the creditor—with the aid of a respectable solicitor in the last resort.

CANTEEN CANKER.

COURT MARTIALS CAN'T CATCH CULPRITS.

During the past few weeks the press have promised us "A Grave Army Scandal," and it was dished up to the public piecemeal. First we were told that several officers were implicated in bribery charges. A few days later we were given the names of certain officers, with their photographs. Then came the announcement of the formation of the Court Martial and the date of trial. A week later, another War Office order was issued, stating that the tribunal had been "suspended," owing to the military authorities having no jurisdiction over civilians in time of peace! In the meantime, the officers who had been under arrest were released and returned to duty.

We shall, we are sure, not be far wrong in regarding the Court Martial, not as suspended, but as cancelled. The five officers who were placed under arrest were perhaps the most capable officers in their particular departments in the Army. We know the "evidence" that was to have been brought against them, but we "turned it down." Had there been any real proof of the allegations "the cat would have been let out of the bag"—first of all in our columns, and then the War Office could either have taken the matter up or dropped it, as they wished. It must not be inferred, however, that, because there was no evidence to go before a Court in the case mentioned, there is no swindling in connection with the supplies of stores and catering. As we have shown from time to time, there is swindling in almost every direction, The whole system under which the canteens are run is one of robbery, and the War Office authorities are to blame. It is they who lay down the system, and with such a system fraud is inevitable. The canteen supplies everything the soldier is supposed to require. The goods are, however, generally of poor quality and high price. The canteen has an exclusive monopoly in barracks; the soldier must deal there, or nowhere. Let us see how these institutions work: The soldier receives his pay once a week. On the morning of pay day the beer is generally good, and Tommy gets his full measure. By the evening, however, the measure is generally short and the liquor is decidedly bad. The quality and service in the dry departments of the canteen correspond. Canteens are run on two different systems: (1) By the regiment; (2) By a tenant. The profits in each case go into what is known as the Canteen Fund, which, by order of the War Office, is managed by officers. Whatever profits are made are derived from the common soldiers' money—so that it is Tommy who pays the piper and the officer who calls the tune. We are quite aware that the administrators hate the work, but they must obey orders.

DELAYED TELEGRAMS.

LIABILITY OF POSTAL AUTHORITIES.

We frequently receive complaints as to the delay of telegrams, whereby the addressee suffers pecuniary loss (in some instances of a very heavy nature), the Postmaster-General disclaiming liability. The following is typical:—

A wire was handed in at Ramsgate at 10.18 a.m. addressed to Steyning, Sussex. It was received there at 12.19 p.m. and reached its destination, within five minutes' walk of the Post Office, at 12.30. It was at once returned, and the attention of the Postmistress was drawn to the great delay, she being requested to re-direct it to an address in London, as the matter was of an urgent character. The wire arrived in London at 2.30 p.m. The postal dilatoriness causing the loss of nearly £100, a claim was made upon the Postmaster-General, and here is his reply:—

> The Postmaster-General, as an officer of the Crown, is exempt from liability, and apart from this immunity no funds have been placed by Parliament at his disposal from which such payment could be made.

Unfortunately, in this respect the Postmaster-General is indeed above the law.

We can, however, see a very easy way out of the difficulty in the future, and we present our idea to Mr. Samuel freely. Let him accept *insured* wires of an urgent financial character. A shilling per hundred pounds should cover the risk.

Mark Your Football Coupon Like a Voting Paper—Simply put a X.

THE BROKEN RECORD.

THE "ILIAD" OF A PSEUDO-ENGLISH COMPANY.

That very extraordinary undertaking, the English Record Company, regarding whose methods of business we have at different times had a good deal to say, has now disappeared from mortal ken, what is left of it having been sold for a mere song to another very peculiar concern working on the same lines. It is appropriate that we should sing its departed glories. The English Record Company was established in November, 1909, by the genius who is generally credited, by people in the know, with originating the "something for nothing" trick, on this side of the Atlantic at any rate. Within a month or so he was joined by a man named J. J. Sallmeyer, one of the leading lights in the notorious London Hygienic Institute, carrying on quack dental businesses in a great number of towns. In association with him in this was a man named Oscar Farkasch and a certain J. L. Rosenhiem. The lack of skill of their underlings in the precious scheme caused the patients great suffering in body—to say nothing of the extortions which were practised upon their purses. The little trio had between them taken part in pretty well every kind of trick then known for parting fools from their money, and Sallmeyer was doubtless glad to find another channel for his ingenuity.

VERY "ONE-SIDED 'FREE' TRADE."

A new scheme was formulated, which took the shape of the ostensible presentation to ignorant people of "free" gramophones, on condition that a large number of records, priced at 2s. 6d, each, were purchased. These machines were supposed to be of the value of three guineas, but, as a matter of fact, they cost 13s. 6d. and remained stationary in value though the number of records to qualify for their possession was raised by degrees from 52 to 60! Sallmeyer, on behalf of the public company which was about to be formed, took away the contract for the supply of these from the old firm, and entered into a much larger one elsewhere—we are informed, for the colossal number of two million records—at the rate of 1s. each, the usual wholesale price for these goods being about 8s. a dozen! A year later Sallmeyer resigned his managing directo ship, a resignation which, if it had not been voluntarily offered would have been forced upon him, for his control of affairs had placed the Company in the unpleasant position of having to face a loss of £58,000 out of a capital subscribed by the public of £66,000, an additional £33,000 having been under-written—mostly by friends of the directors. From the character of the controlling element in the concern, there was, of course, very little chance from the outset of the shareholders seeing much return for their money. A couple of years later the manufacturers received debentures for their debt. Upon Sallmeyer leaving the sinking ship—not that he deserted it in a cowardly way, for we will give him credit for being sufficiently bold to have stopped on board while there was a bit of brass knocking about!—he, in conjunction with the Chairman of the firm from whom the English Record Company had originally obtained their discs, started another "all-British" concern, the Albion Record Company, with a capital of £5,000—all the shares except three being held by Otto Bruns, of 34, Bismarck Strasse, Steglitz, b. Berlin! Some of the touts of the "English" Company were taken into the service of this rival concern. In March last, however, the "English" Company went into voluntary liquidation, as the debenture-holders had put in a Receiver and Manager, in consequence of a judgment being obtained.

CARRYING ON THE "GOOD WORK."

The latest developments are that the two German firms which had been supplying the "English" Company with their records amalgamated a month ago, and that a fortnight later the business of the "English" Company was sold for about a thousand pounds to the Albion Company, who have, of course, taken over the collecting of the accounts (of which, at the time of the liquidation, there were some hundreds of thousands) and are continuing the old pernicious "free" system. We are afraid the poor shareholders will get nothing for their money. The disc-makers have not done so badly, for they enter into the business of supplying, practically directly, their records at about three times their value to many thousands of poor, deluded customers.

THE DOCTORS' HARVEST.

PANEL PRACTITIONERS AND POOR PATIENTS.

Before the Insurance Act there were hundreds of little red-lamp men up and down the country who were at their wits' ends to find a patient; now they are making incomes which in the ordinary course they would not have made for years and, in many cases, probably would not have made at all. This class of doctor is in the main behaving to their patients very well. The class with a lucrative private practice, who have accepted panel work only as a low class, *infra dig.* sort of job, to be done in a low class way, have, on the other hand (of course, with many exceptions), behaved badly to panel patients. They have not fulfilled their obligations; they have, in fact, resorted to all sorts of tricks and dodges to squeeze out of their patients fees to which they were not entitled. Mr. Rockliff, of the London Insurance Committee, speaks of a surgery in which is posted the notice: "On payment of 2s. 6d. a panel patient will be treated as a private patient." Others keep their patients waiting in a queue, charging a fee for early treatment. As he puts it: "'Early doors threepence extra' is their demand." Despite all this, Mr. Lloyd George proposes to hand over £140,000 surplus, derived largely from the 400,000 insured men and women who do not exercise their panel rights and who have probably been driven by these tactics into the private consulting rooms of the men whose medical service they had a right to claim. In our opinion the panel doctors get quite enough out of this Act for their work, and a better use can be found for £140,000 than that to which the Chancellor of the Exchequer seems inclined to put it. For instance, he might use some of it to deal more generously with panel patients, certified for sanatoria but treated at home. It is impossible for us to print all the letters we receive from panel patients charging neglect or insult or blackmail (in their own idea of that word) against medical men on whose panel they are, and we have not a doubt every newspaper editor in the kingdom is in a similar position. The doctors who are fulfilling the national trust in letter and in spirit are many, naturally, for there are many doctors: the others, who undoubtedly are not, ought to be sharply called to account. We are glad that this large sum will not be handed over until the advice of the Law Officers has been taken regarding the step.

A PEST PUNISHED.

TRUCULENT TRICKSTER TROUNCED AT TIVERTON.

If the punishment inflicted by the Devon Magistrates the other week on Frank O'Brien, an itinerant optician, has the desired effect, many lowly residents of the county will have cause to bless their "betters." O'Brien, who is invariably well dressed and has engaging manners—when he likes—has for years made it is his business to go about the West inducing poor men and women—generally women—to let him test their eyes and sell them glasses.

What manner of man he is came out when he was before the Magistrates at Tiverton. In his efforts to do business he had made a second call on a Mrs. Gadd and forced his way into her house. Indeed he so far forgot himself as to lay his hand on her, and she fled screaming from the house, leaving him in undisputed possession.

The questions put by O'Brien in cross-examination of the witness led the Chairman of the Bench (Mr. A. T. Gregory) to remark: "What do you mean by insulting the woman like that? You are not doing yourself any good by making such allegations." Later Mr. Gregory asked O'Brien what qualifications he had to go about the country testing people's sight, and received a negative reply.

For peddling without a licence O'Brien was fined 10s. or 14 days a like punishment was inflicted on him for assaulting Mrs. Gadd. As he had only 9d. on him, he was removed to Exeter Gaol to "do" the 28 days.

Mr. Gregory, in characterising O'Brien as a danger to the public, told him he should make it his business to see if there was not some authority which could check his activities. Most of the rascals working this and similar tricks are artful enough merely to "book orders," their trash coming from "the office" the next day.

Get the Wife or Daughter to send a Mauve Coupon. Extra £100 Football Prize. See page 947.

THE LAWYER AND HIS CLERK.

VISITING ALLEGED CRIME ON RELATION.

It was David, the well-known monarch, who said in his haste that all men are liars; the longer we live the more we are convinced that some of them are. In Cardiff, one of two men come into the category; either Mr. J. T. David, the solicitor, or Mr. J. H. Bindon, his late clerk. When the local *Express* recently stated that Mr. David had dismissed his clerk because Mr. Bindon's brother stands accused of murder, Mr. David wrote saying the allegation was unfounded, and sent a copy of a testimonial which he had given. "The reason for his leaving," concluded the epistle, "is that he has for some time been looking out for more remunerative employment." On the face of this statement it looked as though the *Express* were down and under. The clerk himself has now intervened, and replied that it is true he was dismissed by his master because his brother is accused of murder. He says the solicitor called him into his private room and told him that, as he had given evidence at the inquest and his name and photograph had been put in the newspapers, he could not allow him to remain in his employ any longer as it would injure his reputation. Bindon pointed out that he was now the sole support of his widowed mother; but Mr. David said he could not help this, there and then paid him his week's wages with a further week's in lieu of notice, and instructed him to leave the office at once; and that it was not until ten days afterwards that he called on Mr. David and asked him for a testimonial, when the one referred to was handed to him.

Evidently this crushing retort puts on the Cardiff solicitor the burden of satisfying his own mind, to say nothing of the minds of other people, whether his reputation would have suffered more by retaining this clerk in his employment than it has by denying an ungenerous action in terms of equivocation. We are not unfamiliar with the scriptural ethic—if it can be called an ethic—which visits the sins of the fathers upon the children; but among humane employers we have yet to learn that it is the custom to visit the alleged crime of one brother on another for no other reason than that he is kin. Taking the two letters of employer and employed, comparing them side by side and weighing the statements and probabilities one against another, we have to say without hesitation that we believe the clerk. As the *Western Mail*, the morning newspaper issued in connection with the *Express*, has now taken the clerk into its employment, we infer that the opinion of its conductors coincides with our own. Mr. David seems to have been unduly concerned for the reputation he had. How does he like the one he has now secured?

DIRTY DOGS.

BRAUNT BLACKGUARDS BUSY AT BELFAST.

The Braunt Company, of 154, Howard Street, Glasgow—undeterred by the political convulsion which is going on at Belfast, are busy inveigling poor factory hands—mostly girls—of that place into their net by selling trash to them, and resorting to the campaign of threats and misrepresentations which we have already described in order to enforce payment of their oxorbitant prices. One local worker tells us that he was induced to promise to pay 10s. for a watch which has been valued by an expert at 4s. When he had sent more than half the price he was unable one week to remit an instalment—whereupon, in strict accordance with the Braunt policy, he was favoured with a postcard, addressed to him merely in his Christian and surnames, bearing the printed intimation: "Last payment received from you———. Be good enough to reply by return of post"—the blank being filled up with the writing in of a date.

Of course, our readers are unlikely to fall into the trap of these disreputable tricksters, but they would be doing their friends a good service by putting them on their guard against such mean parasites on the working classes. It is a pity the people running this swindle cannot be made acquainted with the cleansing power of the water in Belfast Lough. They, however, keep their carcases safe, if dirty, by transacting their "business" through the post.

"TOUCH" WOOD.

HOW A WOULD-BE TOUCHER WAS LEFT TO WHISTLE.

The proprietor of a charming old hotel sends us some peculiar correspondence he has had with Mr. C. Gilbert-Wood, "Member of the Institute of Journalists," "Governing Director of the Gilbert-Wood Press," etc., of Norfolk House, Victoria Embankment. Mr. Gilbert-Wood leads off with some particulars of the recent and intended travels of himself and his wife, which, though doubtless of great interest to the friends whom he honours with his acquaintance, fall somewhat coldly upon the ear of a stranger. He, however, soon gets to business, saying:—

> It is possible we shall spend a few weeks in your neighbourhood, and under these circumstances I might possibly be prepared to do a certain amount of business with you on a reciprocative basis (*i.e.*, "contra" a/c)—viz., you to advertise in *The R.U.S.I. Journal*, and I will agree to your setting off my hotel bill against same. This would, of course, prove a most advantageous arrangement to you, in that your advertisement would cost you little or nothing, and so you would be receiving a unique publicity at naturally a very small cost to your good self. On hearing from you that you are interested in the matter, I will give you any further particulars you may require.
>
> Furthermore, as a guest or two in your house when you are not over busy cannot make very much difference (as you must keep open for the few as well as the many), this should prove an excellent means of making use of this most important official medium.
>
> Awaiting your esteemed instructions, which shall at all times receive my—personal—careful and prompt attention.

"Mine host" was a bit of a wag, for in declining this tempting proposal he expressed himself as the more reluctant as he was sure no such opportunity of advertisement had been accorded his house since Queen Elizabeth visited it in 1573! Boniface acted, we think, wisely—for, though he did not know it, we are assured that Mr. Gilbert-Wood's body is built somewhat on the lines of that other ornament of literature, Dr. Johnson. Whether the worthy doctor would have bartered advertisements in his beloved Dictionary for the viands and drink his soul loved, Boswell tells us not. We cannot help thinking, however, that he would have considered such traffic debasing, whether the vehicle offered be a dictionary or a semi-official publication, such as the *Journal of the Royal United Service Institution.*

A VEXATIOUS FINE.

SELF-DEFENCE NO DEFENCE AT POOLE.

When John Norman, of Longfleet, was charged before the Poole Justices with unlawful wounding, the victim of his violence was an important witness for the defence. The injured man, a dealer named Weldon, admitted that he had given his assailant great provocation, and that Norman had acted purely in self-defence. It appeared that there was a long-standing quarrel between the two men, which had reached a crisis on the morning of the alleged assault. "We came to high words," said Weldon, "and I told him that I should hit him across the mouth. He rushed into his house, and I rushed in after him. He then hit me on the head with a piece of gaspipe." Thus out of his own mouth, Weldon was convicted of threats and trespass. In view of these admissions the Bench thought fit to reduce the charge to one of common assault.

At this juncture, Norman declared his intention of applying for a cross-summons against Weldon, in respect of a similar charge. Anxious to be well out of the business, the complainant again confessed to having been grossly provocative, and desired the Bench to let the matter drop.

For some reason or other their worships were unwilling to adopt this sensible course. Ignoring Norman's charge against Weldon of provocative violence, to say nothing of the latter's own confessions, they fined the defendant ten shillings and costs. Weldon, of course, goes scot free. It is hard that a man with Norman's excellent record—it was his first appearance in the police court—should be thus punished and disgraced in respect of a blow which, by common consent, was struck in self defence, and to prevent the forcible invasion of his home by a man from whom he had good reason to fear gross violence.

£2,000 for Twenty First-round Cup Tie Results—£1,000 MUST BE WON. See page 947.

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

BULL-DOGGEREL RHYMES BY "THE BOW-WOW."

Up the virtuous L.C.C. pops,
And the corset parade promptly stops.
We really don't mind, for if we're inclined,
We can still see such things in the shops.

Whilst Asquith sits sunk in repose,
The sand in the hour-glass flows;
'Twill be a mistake if he doesn't soon wake,
For Ulster means business—*and Woes!*

At the Ball (the Arabian Nights),
Some dancers looked lovely, some "frights";
But Salome, we hear, was so stricken with fear,
That she hid in a box—in her tights.

Mona Lisa, whose mystical smile
Some heavenly call, and some vile,
At last has been found, but will ne'er, I'll be bound,
Confess where she's been all this while.

Having waited expectant, in vain,
Sufficient recruits to obtain,
The War Office consents to the heavy expense
Of a great advertising campaign.

The postmen decide to postpone
Their strike until Christmas has gone;
We all know the reason: it's Christmas-box season,
But I doubt if that reason they'd own.

UPTON PARK USURPERS.

SMALL TRADERS CRAVE JUSTICE.

A somewhat curious situation has arisen at Upton Park, Essex, where, in the Queen's Road, a regular market has for many years been carried on. The stalls on either side of the market place are, for the most part, owned by the cottagers of Queen's Road, upon whose premises they abut. It seems, however, that certain enterprising investors have at length realised the speculative value of these cottage sites and several properties are likely to change hands. One cottage has already been sold, and the tenant, a woman of advanced age, and a stall holder of many years' standing, has been turned out to make room for a new resident. It is hardly likely that the newcomer will acquiesce in an arrangement whereby a market stall is set up in front of his windows, and the old lady is thus threatened with the loss of her sole means of support. Other tenants, fearing a similar fate, are actively concerned for the maintenance of their time-honoured prerogatives. The legal aspect of the matter is by no means free from difficulty, and turns upon a variety of circumstances of which we have no knowledge.

It is to be hoped, however, that matters may be adjusted with generous regard to the interests of those who, morally at least, have acquired a prescriptive right to pursue their honest callings undisturbed. The local authority should vigilantly watch the interests of those who may otherwise be left defenceless in the *mêlée* of conflicting interests which is likely to arise in the near future.

APPLIED CHINESE PHILOSOPHY.

By Frederick Phillips.

No language is better suited than the Chinese for the pithy sayings of the wise or the adages of the common people.

The following examples are taken from the Canton dialect, and cases are suggested which fitly illustrate their meanings:—

(1) "Let every man sweep the snow from before his own door and not trouble himself about the frost on his neighbour's tiles."—Rev. F. B. Meyer.

(2) "From one cow you cannot pull off two skins."—Mr. Lloyd George.

(3) If you would not have people know a thing, you had better not do it."—Marconi "deals."

(4) "Honours *sometimes* come by diligence."—Birthday Knighthoods.

(5) "What reason have fish to be merry when the water in which they swim is ebbing away?"—The Advent of the Business Government.

(6) "If the domestic duties be duly performed, where is the necessity of going afar to burn incense?"—The Bishop of London.

(7) "If your schemes do not flourish, what is the use of noisy complaints?"—The Suffragettes.

(8) "If you have discharged your duty as a child, you will in turn have dutiful children of your own."—The German Emperor.

(9) "When there are no fish in the pond, a shrimp is great."—Keir Hardie.

£500 for Two or Three Words—Over 5,000 Other Prizes. See "Bullets," page 954.

A DASTARD BLOW.

AGED PENSIONER'S ABJECT PLIGHT.

William Morris, an old man of seventy, was recently charged at the Godalming Police Court with "wandering in the open air without visible means of subsistence." His indecent parade of poverty incurred exemplary punishment. He was sentenced to fourteen days' hard labour, without the option of a fine. It appears that Morris was never arraigned in open court, but that his case was disposed of in "hole-and-corner" fashion by his Worship the Mayor of Godalming, Alderman E. Bridger, with the assistance of a Superintendent of Police. Such proceedings are in closer accord with the spirit of Continental bureaucracy than with the traditions of British justice. We commend these methods to the attention of the Home Office.

Moreover, the sentence imposed upon Morris involves far-reaching consequences, which are out of all proportion to the triviality of his offence. The man has recently qualified for an old age pension, and by the terms of the Pension Act the effect of a sentence of imprisonment, without option of fine, is to debar him from its enjoyment for a period of two whole years. For no other crime than poverty he is thus cruelly robbed of the only means he has. The Pensions' authorities have already intervened. The law leaves them no option in the matter. The whole responsibility for the old man's cruel fate rests upon the shoulders of Alderman Bridger. It may comfort the Mayor of Godalming to know that his harsh and ill-considered action has plunged a fellow creature into the depths of destitution and darkened his declining years with the spectre of abject want.

There remains no alternative. The case is clearly one for the intervention of supreme authority, and here perhaps, the Pensions' officials may help. They can scarcely be oblivious to the wanton injustice of the magisterial decision. Morris's case should be instantly reconsidered, with a view to the reversal of his sentence. True, he has served his term of imprisonment, but it is not too late to secure a mitigation of its disastrous consequences. Immediate action is imperative, for the poor man is already in desperate straits.

DO "STRANGER THINGS HAPPEN AT SEA"?

SOME CONVINCING EVIDENCE FOR A SCEPTIC.

A Woking reader appears sceptical regarding the stories told in our Christmas number, *John and Mary*, of the wonderful turns of fortune as exemplified in the wins and losses connected with lotteries. In such matters, however, truth is indeed stranger than fiction, and we think the best evidence we can give the doubting one is that to be found in the following account of a case, culled from the *Morning Advertiser* after we had gone to press with the narratives on which he attempts to throw cold water:—

> A young woman in Brunswick, in Germany, has bought a plain straw hat, which turns out to have cost £14,500. The thing seems improbable. But read on. The woman wanted a hat, but as she had no money to pay for one, and as her husband was unwilling to give her the necessary sum, she offered the milliner a lottery ticket. The ticket was accepted, although unwillingly, for it did not represent the value of the hat. A week afterwards, when the lottery was drawn, the ticket won the big prize of £14,500. The German newspapers who report this incident in similar terms do not describe the feelings of the husband when he learnt that his wife's new hat had been obtained at a price of £14,500. One thing is certain—he will have uncomfortable thoughts every time his wife talks of buying a new hat.

But even "stranger things happen at sea"!—indeed, in our own office. One of a different type occurred within the last few days. A correspondent called our attention to what he suspected to be a case of unscrupulous impersonation. We carefully investigated the matter—to discover that the surmise was correct, but that the guilty party was our informant's own brother, the black sheep of the family, who had long vanished from the ken of his relatives, and had changed his name! Many an innocent-looking "Letter Bag" paragraph is a key to a mystery which would have fascinated Sherlock Holmes. Students of human nature should watch the columns.

A DEAL SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CASE.

STRANGE STORY OF MAYOR, MAGISTRACY AND MALICE.

It looks as though the Mayor (Councillor Hussey) and Magistrates of Deal Petty Sessions—Alderman Solomon, Alderman F. H. J. Hayward, and Messrs. C. J. Burgess and W. Radcliffe—or some of them, are particularly anxious to distinguish themselves. The remarkable case brought before them is headed in the *Deal Mercury* as "A Dear Display of Temper"; a fact we mention because under the headline our contemporary at once proceeds to report that "Frank Rook, of Mill Road, was summoned for the non-attendance of his child regularly at school." The proof of this charge of non-attendance lay with a school attendance officer named Noble. He testified that "the child had attended school 34 out of a possible 40 times, was aged 5, and the case was brought before the Attendance Committee because threatening language was used when he called at the house and because of the absences." The father frankly admitted that "he lost his temper and said a little more than he ought to have done," and on being asked by the Mayor what reason he had to give for his child's non-attendance he responded: "A bad cold and very rough weather." He could not have given a more conclusive answer to the charge. Out of 40 possible attendances this 5-year-old child had made 34, as to which the attendance officer had to say on being questioned by an outspoken magistrate, Alderman Hayward, the Deputy-Mayor, "The attendance is not bad, I admit." We should think not, indeed. Truth is, the real offence for which this parent was summoned was not that he had not sent his child to school, but that in a moment of irritation at the self-importance assumed by the officer in unnecessarily bothering him at an inconveninent time, he had sworn at him and wounded his *amour-propre*. There could not have been anything very fierce or fruity in the "abusive and threatening language," or the officer could and probably would have taken a summons out for that. No, the offence was one thing and the charge was another.

Charged for the non-attendance of his child, the man was obviously convicted and fined for his explosive vernacular; for whereas the usual fine in cases of non-attendance at Deal is 2s. 6d., the Mayor, after a speech of florid fustian, imposed a fine of four times that amount. "Laws grind the poor and rich men make the laws." There is growing up about us too much fussy officialism in braid and buttons. Far too much importance is attached to it, not only in Deal, but in other towns as well. Let loose on the community it inclines to assume the airs of a Persian potentate and in the bureau to talk like a Delphic oracle. The Mayor of Deal and his colleagues have in this case thoroughly earned this our advertisement.

THE DORMANT M.P.

Before the election
He's out for inspection,
Intent upon winning the seat;
To the crowd he is speaking,
So eagerly seeking
Their votes, his opponent to beat.
When he calls on supporters,
Meets wives, sons and daughters
And babies that at him do glare,
He must affably greet them
(Though sorry to meet them
And wishing he'd journeyed elsewhere!)
But he strives to look cheerful
When babies so tearful
Are thrust down before him, on show;
Though such interest he's taking
He's inwardly aching
To curtail his visit and go!
But—after election
He severs connection
With those who to him gave the vote;
In the House he is snoring,
All business ignoring,
The chance of him waking, remote!

A. B. COOK.

Football Competitors—See Our New Method of Marking the Coupon. Page 947.

Can you write good Business Letters?

An Important Article for every man engaged in business.
A Situation at £200 a year with A. W. Gamage, Ltd.

HAVE you ever thought what an extremely valuable gift it is to be able to write really good business letters? Anyone can write a letter—of a sort. But the real correspondent who can be depended on to write a letter that will bring in orders, or that will carry its point if produced as evidence in a court of law, is a treasure rarely to be met with.

Just think what a difference it would make to you in your business if you could write really successful letters? Hundreds of huge businesses have been built up entirely through the clever use of the business bringing power of the letter. Are you, in your own way, doing the same thing by writing circular letters that bring you new customers every day?

Perhaps you could do so but cannot spare the time. Perhaps, however, you have not the knack of writing such letters. In either case, there is now an easy way out of your difficulty.

A new edition of the world-famous "Business Encyclopædia" has just been brought out containing over

1,000 Model Letters and Agreements

which you can adapt or use to suit every occasion that can possibly arise in your business. Just consider, apart from all the many other uses of the "Business Encyclopædia," how extremely valuable this section alone would be to you.

Letters that Bring you More Business.

Take, for instance, the many varieties of letters sent to customers and would-be customers—letters answering complaints or collecting accounts—do you ever have to write these?

And how about "form" or circular letters that seek to sell goods? Even a letter-writer of quite ordinary calibre will charge anything from a guinea upwards for writing such letters, yet here you have letters specially written by expert authorities on every conceivable subject, including letters announcing the start of a new business or the new management of an old one; the inauguration of any new department or the acquisition of any new agency; letters to new residents in a district or to visitors to hotels; letters announcing special delivery arrangements.

Recovering Lost Customers.

Then there is a most important section giving all sorts of letters to recover lost customers—most valuable letters these. Other valuable letters are letters offering and sending out catalogues and circulars of all sorts; letters announcing new season's stocks; letters about sales of all kinds; in fact, circular letters of every conceivable kind and nature.

Letters Saving Legal Costs.

Another section that will save you many pounds every year is the large portion devoted to legal and semi-legal letters and agreements of all sorts. The subjects included are so wide as to cover every phase of business. These are just a few of them: Insurance, Relations of Landlord and Tenant, Licences, Notifications and Applications to Local Authorities, Engaging Employees and Dismissing them, Mortgages, the National Insurance Act and the Workmen's Compensation Act, nominating Legal Representatives, Options, Patents, Partnerships, Rates, References, Warranties, Stock Exchange Transactions, Trustees.

A Book on Business Free.

On this page you will find a special coupon for readers of JOHN BULL, which entitles you to a free copy of an interesting book on business, that may set you on the right road to business success, just as it has set many others of your fellow readers. In itself, it is of considerable value to any business man, for it contains actual facsimile specimens, showing how to draw up important legal documents, such as wills, agreements, leases, indentures, etc., etc.

But—and this is the most vital point for you—it tells you also *all* about this great "Business Encyclopædia," probably the most valuable work that any business man could have. It is the only work that gives full and detailed information on all the problems that confront the business man during his work.

How it concerns you.

Whatever line of business you are in, whatever position you occupy in it, this work can prove invaluable to you if you will use it right. If you want to know about any point in bookkeeping the "Business Encyclopædia" will tell you. If you want to know about drawing up a balance-sheet or a profit and loss account, you will find it here. If you want to know the law as it affects your own particular calling, if you want to know anything about manufacturing, if you want to learn all about loose and card index systems, you can learn it here. You can learn, in fact, of any and every subject connected with business. Surely you realise the help this knowledge would mean.

SITUATION AT £200 A YEAR.

Moreover, if you own the "Business Encyclopædia," you can enter for the position offered by Messrs. A. W. Gamage, Ltd., the famous Holborn outfitters, who require a man or woman for a responsible position in their firm, and who know that the person who owns and studies the "Business Encyclopædia" is the best possible man or woman for the post. The position carries a commencing salary of £200 a year, and will be filled by competitive examination. Full particulars will be sent free on receipt of the form below. There is no entrance fee, and a number of other prizes are offered from £100 in cash downwards

TWO OPINIONS.

J. S. FRY & SONS, LTD., write:—

"We strongly advise all commercial men to purchase the work. It is the work *par excellence* for every business man to possess."

Mr. G. W. READ, Clerk, Fortnam Road, London, N.:—

"I never made a more gratifying purchase. I regard the 'Business Encyclopædia' as a most profitable investment, and I very much regret that such a work did not come my way earlier in life."

A FREE BOOK

This Coupon entitles you to one free copy of the book on Business Success, but it must be sent at once. It tells all about the work and how any reader may obtain it, complete in nine handsome volumes, for a first payment of 1s. 6d. only.

To the CAXTON PUBLISHING CO., LTD.,
54, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me one complimentary copy of the book on the "Business Encyclopædia." Also particulars of the situation at £200 a year with Messrs. A. W. Gamage, Ltd.

Name .....
(Send this form or a postcard.)

Address ....

.....

ON REMAND.

IMPRESSIONS OF A VISIT TO BRIXTON PRISON.

BY KENNETH MARRIOT.

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CCLXXVII.—"Ivy Mary," 2s. 6d.; "Edie and Tom," 1s.; A. C., 1s.; "Little Johnnie," 8s.; F. T. M., 10s. 6d.; E. C., 2s. 6d.; "Jacko," 2s. 6d.; W. H. M., 1s.; E. M. H., 4d.; W. S. (Norwich), parcel; "For His Sake," 2s. 6d.; O. H. G., 5s.; "A. N. Other," 1s.; W. G. O., 3s.

We have this week apportioned £10 from the JOHN BULL Derby Sweepstake Charity Fund as follows:—CCXLVII., 30s.; CCXLVIII., 20s.; CCLVII., 40s. 6d.; CCLXXVII., £5; and 3s. 6d. to an injured miner in hospital, to purchase stamps deficient on his National Insurance book.

"JOHN BULL'S" CHRISTMAS CHARITIES.

AN APPEAL FOR SEASONABLE CHEER FOR THE POOR.

We again make an appeal to the generosity of our readers to enable us, at the approaching Christmas season, to distribute food, clothing, toys, etc., amongst the London poor.

First, we want money with which to buy orders upon local butchers, bakers, grocers, and others.

Secondly, we want left-off clothing of all sizes.

Thirdly, we want toys for the little ones.

We can also do with boxes of oranges, sweets, fruit, crackers—in short, anything likely to bring happiness, if only for a few days, into the homes of the poor.

Gifts of money should be sent to the Editorial Offices, 93 and 94, Long Acre; presents in kind should be directed to the depot of the Fund, 149, Mare Street, London, N.E.

The following subscriptions are gratefully acknowledged:

W. H. M. 5s.; "A Friend," £1, E. T. J. M., 2s. 6d.; A. L., 2s. 6d.; "Evelyn," 10s.; "Louie," 2s. 6d.; A. L., 6d.; H. M. F., 1s.; S. J. F., 10s.; A. F. G. S., 2s. 6d.; "Working Man, Wife and Child," 2s. 6d.; A. B., 3s.; "Good Health," 5s.; A. E. P., 6d.; A. S. Y., 5s.; E. H., 2s. 6d.; F. L. M. E., 5s.; "Jacko," 2s. 6d.; Mrs. D., 5s.; F. B. L., 2s. 6d.; E. C., 1s.; "Yorick," 1s. 6d.; Miss B., 5s.; R. M., 2s. 6d.; A. W., 2s. 6d.; M. C. H., 1s.; "Regulation" (Romford), 2s. 6d.; "Bobbie," 5s.; "Aero," 2s. 6d.; F. C. P., 2s.; C. A. N., 5s.; R. G. H., 2s. 6d.; "Admirer," £1; C. E. M., 2s. 6d.; H. C. P., 1s.; C. B. R., 2s. 6d.

Oddenino's Imperial Restaurant, 100 Christmas Puddings; parcels of clothing, toys, dolls, etc., from E. L. C., Mrs. R. H., "Bedworth," "A Bulletite," H.H., "Simeta Marsden," "Anonymous," "Jim," E. W., "Mistress," Mrs. N. B., "Nemo," Mrs. C., "Evelyn," "Chiswick," Mrs. S., "Rita," "A Reader," Mrs. H. E. A., F. M. F., Chetta and Jacky Mells, "Egertonian."

Begins This Week. Great First-round Football Cup Tie Contest. See page 947.

The rising generation should be taught

to take mustard at every meal.

Bring up your boy or girl in the way the digestion should go—and keep indigestion away when they get to be middle-aged.

No other product of Nature has been endowed with such marvellous aids to appetite and digestion.

"A mustard spoon in the hand is worth two 'tonics' in the future."

Colman's
D.S.F. Mustard

E.H.S.

TRY the new mixture made by Tadd 's who have been blending choice tobaccos since the rei n of George II.

TADDY'S
LONDON MIXTURE

Always smoke Taddy's Tobacco. The finest tobacco in the best blend.

London Mixture is packed in 1-oz. and 2-oz. packets and in 2-oz. ¼- b and ½-lb tins. 5d. per ounce.

SEND nine penny stamps to Newball & Mason, Nottingham, and they will send you a bottle of

Mason's Ginger Wine Essence

which makes

One Gallon Ginger Wine

with the addition of lump sugar.

All who apply before January 15th will receive a Neat Money Box, which makes a Useful Gift for the Children.

A Guaranteed Weatherproof for . . 25/-

This "Kelvit" is something entirely new in Weatherproofs. No illustration can give any idea of its sterling value, and it is the only coat at anything like the price which is a perfect protection in all weathers. Kelvit Weatherproofs are made in a variety of Browns, Fawns and Greens in two styles — the Raglan as illustrated—and the Slip-on, which has a Prussian Collar and buttons close up to the throat. The neat check lining which harmonises with the colour of the coat is also perfect —and proofed.

KELVIT WEATHERPROOFS

. . Sent on Approval for Six Days. . .

We will send a Kelvit Weatherproof, Carriage Paid, on approval for Six days on receipt of your remittance for 25/-. When ordering, please state height and chest measurement over waistcoat. If you would like to learn more about the Kelvit Weatherproofs before ordering, send for free booklet, "THE WEATHERWISE WEATHERPROOF," and patterns. . .

Glasgow Clothing Co
ROWAN & CO PROPRIETORS

ARGYLE ST. . . . . GLASGOW.

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CCLXXIV.—"Edie and Tom," 6d.

CCLXXV.—J. W. E., 2s. 6d.; "Edie and Tom," 6d.; A. C., 1s. 6d.; "Bread on the Water," 10s. 6d.; "For His Sake," 2s. 6d.

CCLXXVI.—"Nellie," 5s.; A. J. S., 15s.; F. M., 1s., H. L., 1s.; A. W., 2s.; Mrs. H., parcel; "Browah," 1s.; "Grangemouth," 5s.; B. J. G., 2s.; "Dick Turpin," 2s. 6d.; "Solomon Moses," 10s.; "Louie," 2s. 6d.; J. L., 1s.; A. G., 2s. 6d.; C. H., 6d.; "Swain," 2s.; F. D. J., 2s. 6d.; "For His Sake," 2s. 6d.

CCLXXVII.—"Ivy Mary," 2s. 6d.; "Edie and Tom," 1s.; A. C., 1s.; "Little Johnnie," 8s.; F. T. M., 10s. 6d.; E. C., 2s. 6d.; "Jacko," 2s. 6d.; W. H. M., 1s.; E. M. H., 4d.; W. S. (Norwich), parcel; "For His Sake," 2s. 6d.; O. H. G., 5s.; "A. N. Other," 1s.; W. G. O., 3s.

We have this week apportioned £10 from the JOHN BULL Derby Sweepstake Charity Fund as follows:—CCXLVII., 30s.; CCXLVIII., 20s.; CCLVII., 40s. 6d.; CCLXXVII., £5; and 3s. 6d. to an injured miner in hospital, to purchase stamps deficient on his National Insurance book.

"JOHN BULL'S" CHRISTMAS CHARITIES.

AN APPEAL FOR SEASONABLE CHEER FOR THE POOR.

We again make an appeal to the generosity of our readers to enable us, at the approaching Christmas season, to distribute food, clothing, toys, etc., amongst the London poor.

First, we want money with which to buy orders upon local butchers, bakers, grocers, and others.

Secondly, we want left-off clothing of all sizes.

Thirdly, we want toys for the little ones.

We can also do with boxes of oranges, sweets, fruit, crackers—in short, anything likely to bring happiness, if only for a few days, into the homes of the poor.

Gifts of money should be sent to the Editorial Offices, 93 and 94, Long Acre; presents in kind should be directed to the depot of the Fund, 149, Mare Street, London, N.E.

The following subscriptions are gratefully acknowledged:

W. H. M. 5s.; "A Friend," £1; E. T. J. M., 2s. 6d.; A. L., 2s. 6d.; "Evelyn," 10s.; "Louie," 2s. 6d.; A. L., 6d.; H. M. F., 1s.; S. J. F., 10s.; A. F. G. S., 2s. 6d.; "Working Man, Wife and Child," 2s. 6d.; A. B., 3s.; "Good Health," 5s.; A. E. P., 6d.; A. S. Y., 5s.; E. H., 2s. 6d.; F. L. M. E., 5s.; "Jacko," 2s. 6d.; Mrs. D., 5s.; F. B. L., 2s. 6d.; E. C., 1s.; "Yorick," 1s. 6d.; Miss B., 5s.; R. M., 2s. 6d.; A. W., 2s. 6d.; M. C. H., 1s.; "Regulation" (Romford), 2s. 6d.; "Bobbie," 5s.; "Aero," 2s. 6d.; F. C. P., 2s.; C. A. N., 5s.; R. G. H., 2s. 6d.; "Admirer," £1; C. E. M., 2s. 6d.; H. C. P., 1s.; C. B. R., 2s. 6d.

Oddenino's Imperial Restaurant, 100 Christmas Puddings; parcels of clothing, toys, dolls, etc., from E. L. C., Mrs. R. H., "Bedworth," "A Bulletite," H.H., "Simeta Marsden," "Anonymous," "Jim," E. W., "Mistress," Mrs. N. B., "Nemo," Mrs. C., "Evelyn," "Chiswick," Mrs. S., "Rita," "A Reader," Mrs. H. E. A., F. M. F., Chetta and Jacky Mells, "Egertonian"

Begins This Week. Great First-round Football Cup Tie Contest. See page 947.

The rising generation should be taught

to take mustard at every meal.

Bring up your boy or girl in the way the digestion should go—and keep indigestion away when they get to be middle-aged.

No other product of Nature has been endowed with such marvellous aids to appetite and digestion.

"A mustard spoon in the hand is worth two 'tonics' in the future."

Colman's D.S.F. Mustard

S.H.B.

TRY the new mixture made by Tadd 's who have been blending choice tobaccos since the rei n of George II.

TADDY'S LONDON MIXTURE

Always smoke Taddy's Tobacco. The finest tobacco in the best blend.

London Mixture is packed in 1-oz. and 2-oz. packets and in 2-oz. ¼- b and ½-lb tins. **5d. per ounce.**

SEND nine penny stamps to Newball & Mason, Nottingham, and they will send you a bottle of

Mason's Ginger Wine Essence

which makes

One Gallon Ginger Wine

with the addition of lump sugar.

All who apply before January 15th will receive a Neat Money Box, which makes a Useful Gift for the Children.

A Guaranteed Weatherproof for . . 25/-

This "Kelvit" is something entirely new in Weatherproofs. No illustration can give any idea of its sterling value, and it is the only coat at anything like the price which is a perfect protection in all weathers. Kelvit Weatherproofs are made in a variety of Browns, Fawns and Greens in two styles — the Raglan as illustrated—and the Slip-on, which has a Prussian Collar and buttons close up to the throat. The neat check lining which harmonises with the colour of the coat is also perfect —and proofed.

KELVIT WEATHERPROOFS

. . Sent on Approval for Six Days. . .

We will send a Kelvit Weatherproof, Carriage Paid, on approval for Six days on receipt of your remittance for 25/-. When ordering, please state height and chest measurement over waistcoat. If you would like to learn more about the Kelvit Weatherproofs before ordering, send for free booklet, "THE WEATHERWISE WEATHERPROOF," and patterns. . .

Glasgow Clothing Co

ROWAN & C PROPRIETORS

ARGYLE ST. . . . . GLASGOW.

OLD GENT (loaded with Christmas parcels): "Just open the gate for me, my lad."
THE LAD: "No good, mate. No 'awkers allowed!"

A QUICK CURE.

HOW TO EXPEDITE LEWIS'S LAGGING STEPS.

The victims of Samuel Lewis and Company ("The Holborn Silk Market"), Limited, of 58, High Holborn, W.C., should take a hint from a Woking reader who, as appears to be customary in transactions with these people, sent money for goods which he did not receive. The sum, £1 19s. 6d., was dispatched to Holborn on November 11th, together with an order for satin which was urgently required to complete some work. As the goods did not arrive, and no reply was obtained to letters or even a prepaid telegram, the customer visited the "Silk Market"—to find it, as we have said, located in a top back bedroom. As no satisfaction could be obtained on the premises, a journey was made to Gray's Inn Road Police Station, and a complaint was lodged. The goods required were then—in despair of their ever being received from Lewis's—purchased at a West End shop. Imagine the surprise of the country cousin on finding, awaiting him on his return to Woking, a telegram reading: "Satin dispatched this morning letter post.—Lewis"—and, strangest of all, the goods did actually arrive that evening!

There is, to our mind, little doubt that, following the usual course, the Police authorities sent a constable round to 58, High Holborn to inquire into the matter—and Samuel Lewis or W. G. Davey (the sole directors and shareholders) terrorised by the knowledge of the many cases in which they had taken money and failed to deliver goods, or delivered them only when forced to do so by threats—promptly made extraordinary exertions to stop what they thought would be unpleasant proceedings. We, therefore, advise all those who have sent Lewis's money and obtained nothing in exchange, to complain to the Scotland Yard authorities.

We congratulate Lewis and Davey on their conversion—though tardy—to the truth of the adage that "Delay brings danger"—in some circumstances.

GREEDY GUARDIANS.

BUMBLE AT ROCHFORD GRABS AND ASKS FOR MORE.

An old man complains to us of a piece of peculiarly sharp practice on the part of the Rochford (Essex) Board of of Guardians. About a year ago, his son suffered a mental breakdown, and it became necessary to remove him to the Essex County Asylum. The father, who is past work, enjoys no income beyond a trifling pension, from which he was ordered to contribute three shillings per week towards his son's maintenance in the asylum. The regular payment of this money involved a severe tax upon his slender resources, and at the end of six months he bethought him of a deposit which his son, when in health, had accumulated in the Post Office Savings' Bank. He was informed that the amount in question could not be withdrawn except upon the personal demand of the depositor. He detailed these circumstances to the Collector of the Board, from whom he subsequently received this letter:—

> I beg to inform you that the amount in P.O. Savings' Bank standing in the name of your son, has been withdrawn in favour of the Rochford Board of Guardians for your son's maintenance in the asylum. This will not, however, relieve you of the order against you, as the cost of maintenance in the asylum—eleven and eightpence weekly—exceeds what has been recovered by the Guardians.

Upon receipt of this intimation, the father renewed his inquiries, to find that the sum thus appropriated by the Guardians amounted to £10—the whole of his son's savings for a period of five years. Despite this "windfall" thus unexpectedly accruing to the Board, the father is being remorselessly pressed for payment. They are already threatening legal proceedings. Our correspondent has been made legally liable for a contribution which is far in excess of his means. In these circumstances, he sought to relieve the stress of his situation by recourse to the savings of his son. Equity demands that the son's savings should be placed to the father's credit in respect of his debt to the Board, after which the man's contribution should be more fitly proportioned to his means.

Don't Forget to give Your Friend a "John Bull" Pen for Christmas. Coupon on page iii of Cover.

Old Bushmills Whisky

set the highest standard in whiskies many years ago, and retains that proud position to-day. The secret of its success is its unsurpassable quality, which never deviates from the old standard.

Of all Wine Merchants: or name of nearest agent from The Old Bushmills Distillery Co., Ltd., 20, Mark Lane.

'Ever-Ready' Safety Razor WITH 12 Blades 5/- COMPLETE

Trade Mark Face.

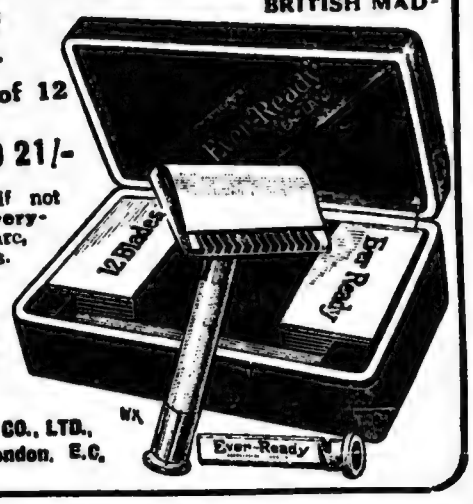
THE MOST USEFUL AND ACCEPTABLE XMAS GIFT is an "EVER-READY"

THE "Ever-Ready" Blade will give you the best shave of your life. The "Ever-Ready Safety Razor Outfit with 12 Blades," and all for 5/- make. Guinea Razors a positive extravagance

The Outfit contains Triple Silver-plated Razor frame guaranteed for 10 years, Bl de Stropper and 12 Blades, as illustrated, in handsome durable case.

BRITISH MADE

Remember there are 12 Blades with the "Ever-Ready" Set at 5/-.—Count your Blades.



Extra Blades in Packets of 12 for 3/-

SPECIAL OUTFITS UP TO 21/-

Your money back instantly if not completely satisfied Sold Everywhere Cutlery, Hardware, Chemists and General Stores. Insist on having the "Ever-Ready." If your dealer attempts substitution, the Outfit or Extra Blades will be sent direct to your house, post free, on receipt of P.O

INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTING CO., LTD., 67, Stonecutter Street, London, E.C.

Design by A. Nicholls.

FLOR DE DINDIGUL CIGAR

There is nothing cheap about this Cigar, except the price. It has stood the test of time and is still the favourite Light in colour, very mild in flavour, and of fine aroma. 13 Gold Medals awarded.
Price 3d., each 5 for 1/-; boxes of 25, 5/5; in boxes of 50, 10/3.
Flor de Dindigul Extra, extra choice, 4d. each; 15/- per box of 50 as supplied to the House of Lords.
Flor de Dindigul Cigarettes (all tobacco leaf, no paper), 1d. each, 3/4 per box of 100. A delicious whiff when there is no time for a cigar.

Of all good dealers, or post free of BEWLAY, 49, STRAND, LONDON. Est. 133 years.

"BULLETS" COMPETITORS!

Notice Re Turkey Prizes.

¶ Owing to reasons of space "John Bull" cannot print the names and addresses of their Turkey winners.

¶ The proprietors, however, have kindly acceded to our request to supply us with the full list, and the names and addresses of winners will be found in this week's issue of the "Competitors' Journal"—which can be obtained at any newsagent or bookstall in the country.

¶ The names of the winners of Turkeys each week will also be found in succeeding issues of the "Competitors' Journal."

THE "COMPETITORS' JOURNAL"

is a 24-page weekly paper issued in the interest of competitors. It gives you advice and help which will lead you nearer the goal you are seeking.

SINCE ITS INCEPTION—some eight months ago—"C.J." readers have won over

£21,000

in Big Prizes alone. Join the happy band NOW!

Order the "C.J." through your newsagent, or it will be sent post free for one year 6s., six months 3s., three months 1s. 6d., or one month 6d.

THE COMPETITORS' JOURNAL,
67a, Glasshouse Street, Piccadilly Circus, London W.

OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS AND TELEGRAMS.

To His Royal Highness the Duke of Teck.

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS,—Your appeal to the public on behalf of the myriad workers who, in one way or another, contribute to the festal joy of Yuletide, is in the true Christmas spirit and deserves a widespread response. In our jollity, and even in our charity, we are a little apt to be insensible to the strain imposed upon those who, behind the scenes of the city's gay emporiums, must labour from dawn till dead of night for the satisfaction of our needs. For these weary ones, to whom Christmas-tide brings scant respite from drudging toil, you have uttered a chivalrous plea. "Early purchases," you declare, "will greatly facilitate the work of all, and thus render Christmas a less burdensome and far happier occasion." And to your Royal Highness shall be added an ample measure of the peace which follows upon practical well-doing. JOHN BULL.

To His Honour Judge Parry, Lambeth County Court.

GENIAL JUDGE,—I rejoice to find that you have abated no measure of that practical consideration for the poor which has honourably distinguished your judicial career. You were recently asked to enforce certain manorial rights, whereby it was sought to levy "quit rents" and similar imposts upon tenants already fairly rented in respect of the occupancy of their land. You declined to lend your judicial authority to these archaic exactions, declaring that they were of doubtful legality and offensive to your equitable sense. Your action is in pleasing contrast with that of some other County Court Judges, who, in similar cases, have entered judgments against tenants too poor to face the costs of legal defence. Your public-spirited decision throws the onus of appeal upon those who seek to maintain claims which are wholly out of accord with the spirit of modern fairness. Which is just as it should be. JOHN BULL.

To Sir Edward Henry, Chief Commissioner, Metropolitan Police.

SIR,—May I ask by what authority you instructed your legal representative to move heaven and earth for the suppression of the names of witnesses in a recent prosecution at Marylebone, concerning the conduct of a "massage" den? This was not the case of the casual discovery upon the premises of names which might or might not be genuine, but it was actually sought to conceal the identity of witnesses who, by their own admission, had shared in the conduct of an improper house. This extraordinary demand for secrecy was entirely devoid of excuse—there being, in fact, excellent reasons why the fullest disclosure should be made. An observation of the prosecuting solicitor suggests that police officers, fishing for evidence in such cases, are apt to bait their hooks with the promise of secrecy. If this is in fact so, the practice cannot be too severely deprecated. Public policy demands that the fullest publicity shall attach to criminal proceedings, and the suppression of names is a mischievous bribe, which your officers have no right to offer. Anonymity and blackmail go ever hand in hand. JOHN BULL.

To G. Bernard Shaw, Esq., Critic, Cloudland.

DEAR BERNARD,—I regret to have to notice you again so soon, but you have been so wondrous prevalent of late that I seem to encounter your futilities at every hand. Only the other day you were sneering at the lot of us as "super-monkeys," or something of the kind, and now you have favoured the working-man with your especial attention, contriving, as usual, to be both wrong and rude. You express agreement with a French playwright who asserted that the male worker "is foul-mouthed, selfish, ill-behaved and violent"; and that he shrinks from the notion of female emancipation, "afraid of being dominated by woman in industry where he cannot use his fists, as he often does in his home." You know as well as I do that this scathing generalisation involves foul slander upon men over whom, when it suits your central purpose, you are wont to cast the mantle of your patronage. Labour may well pray to be saved from its "friends." JOHN BULL.

To the Lord Mayor, Liverpool.

MY LORD,—The ratepayers of Liverpool pay such handsome salaries to such an army of officials that I feel sure you will not think me over curious in asking which of them is responsible for the muddle at the Town Hall. The rule is that when an ordinary person goes to the Justices for a dancing licence, the bye-laws demand that the hall must have been licensed for dancing and certificated by the Health Committee—that when the poor wretch, citizen though he be of no mean city, goes trembling before the cadis they demand the Health Committee's certificate, and that before he can get a certificate from the Health Committee he is badgered for plans and amended plans and re-amended plans until he is driven nearly out of his harassed mind.

But what of the Town Hall ballroom? How comes it that this vast army of fussy, well-fatted, rate-paid officials have forgotten to get the certificate of the Health Committee for the municipal ballroom under their very noses? How comes it that the cadi:— o acute, so just, so searching, so stern, and scornful in their refusal of a licence if the trembling wretch aforesaid cannot produce a certificate of the Health Committee—have year after year, granted a licence to the Town Hall ballroom without such a certificate being produced? And where, oh where, all this time has been the assiduous Town Clerk and the pertinacious Chief Constable?

I demand that you, my Lord Mayor and the Corporation, should be prosecuted with the utmost rigour of the law for your long-continued offences. The voice of Justice calls for vengeance. So use your office that the sword may fall swift and sure. JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. Mr. Ghent, Senior Curate, St. Andrew's Parish Church, Stockwell.

REV. SIR,—I am informed that you have resumed your religious activities in St. Andrew's Church, at least to the extent of reading the Lessons. While I appreciate the loyal support which your Vicar has given to you, it appears to me that until a jury of your fellow citizens has declared that you are guiltless of the charge Mrs. Fitzgerald makes against you, there can be no appropriate place for your spiritual offices in the services of the Church. You may tell me that your Vicar believes in you, that the officers of St. Andrew's Church believe in you, and that many of the congregation believe in you. If you please, I will agree all that; but an open, resounding accusation of misconduct with herself made against a clergyman by a woman-member of his congregation—misconduct alleged, too, in conditions and circumstances which aggravate the guilt of it—is not a merely local matter; not wholly and solely a question for St. Andrew's, Stockwell. So long as the accusation remains undecided in the courts it is a scandal to the Church at large, and to the religion the Church preaches and professes, and I suggest to you the grave impropriety—I had almost said the reckless bravado—of your taking part in the services of St. Andrew's until you are legally acquitted of these scandalous charges. Think it over. JOHN BULL.

To J. R. Pretyman Newman, Esq., M.P., Enfield, Middlesex.

DEAR FIRE-EATER,—I note your amiable declaration that, should the Ulster crisis eventuate in bloodshed through the employment of Imperial troops, any man will be justified in shooting Mr. Asquith in the streets of London. I am wondering whether you really meant this wild and whirling nonsense, or whether it was but a rhetorical ruse, calculated to shock and stir your listless auditors. In either case, such an utterance does you scant credit. In so far as the Ulster difficulty is real, every patriotic citizen should contribute of his best towards its pacific solution. For the rest—peace and goodwill, my dear Newman. Play the game! JOHN BULL.

Asquith.

Agree incidence Income Tax needs readjustment. In arranging same, please collect bit more from other fellow and bit less from me. And, by the way, do cut the cackle over the holidays—and get to the turkey. BULL.

Bonar Law.

See last sentence of above. BULL.

£2,000 for Football Forecasts. Great New Contest This Week. See page 947.

A WISE "POST"-PONEMENT.

(The Post Office workers have decided not to strike before Christmas.)

THE POSTMAN: "I think I ought to stick to my 'post' until I've made *this* 'collection,' anyhow."

IN THE BARBER'S CHAIR.

THE BISHOP OF KENSINGTON.

Mornin', sir—yore Reverence, I *should* say. . . . Will you take this 'ere stall—er, chair, yore Worshi—I mean Reverence? . . . You'll be outer the draught an 'ave a stained glarss winder ter look at. . . . Yes-sir—yore Reverence, that is—we orlways tries to make *h*our customers feel at 'ome . . . An' wot can I do for yer? . . . Shavin'? . . . Very good, yore 'Oliness—I should say Reverence—I'll give you a proper *H*ecclesiastical shave. . . . Will you put yore arms in the sleeves of the surplice?—wrapper, I mean. . . . *That's* it, sir. . . . An' 'ow do you find religion, sir?—yore Reverence, I should say. . . . There's a bit of a slump in most trades jest now, I fancy, an' I don't suppose yores is enny excepshun to the rule. . . . Still, I dessay there's a little bit o' corn left in Egypt, as the Scripchers put it. . . . Ho, yes, yore Worshiper, 'Oliness—I should say Reverence—I ain't altogether *h*ignerant of the Good Book. . . . Not thet I calls meself a religious man, minjer; but I carn't help noticin' thet the morals of the people nowadays is in a fearful state. Don't chew think so, yore Reverence? . . I went to one of the big music-'alls the other night—took the missus—an' I was never ser much *h*upset an' disgusted in me life. . . . I 'ad to go out three times to get a drink, else I should never 'ave 'a l the pluck to look the wife in the face. . . . Some performin' *h*animals there wos, an'—would jew berlieve it?—*they 'cdn't got nuthink on but their own 'air!* . . . There they wos, a-sittin' up on their 'aunches, facin' the aujience, with orl the dam'd owdaciousness—I beg yore pardon, yore 'Oliness; that slipped out soter speak—the Ole Adam agin damn 'im!—er! herr'm!—Yes, yore Worship, there they wos, exposin' their Darby Kellys an' *h*everythink else, without a stitch on. . . . I turned 'ot orl over. . . . As fur look in' at the missus—well, it couldn't be done. . . . She wos suckin' a *h*orange, so I 'oped she 'adn t seen. . . . But she 'ad, bless yer! . . . Trust a woman fur seein' wot she didn't oughter! . . . Well, I 'ad ter go round to the bar ter git a cooler. . . But wot I awsk is this—W'ere's the Censer?—No, I don't mean the one wot they swings in church, yore 'Oliness—I mean the bloke wot took the place of Dear Ole Charlie, an' 'oo is serposed ter prertect the respectable public from 'avin' naked *h*animals shoved in their faces w'en they've got their wives an' sweetearts wiv 'em. . . . W'ere is 'e? I awsk . . . But thet ain't orl, yore Reverence. There wos a short sketch in w'ich one of ther characters come on the stage *'oldin' a naked light in 'er 'and!* . . . Well, thet did it! . . . "This aint no place fur *h*us," I ses to the missus, an' *h*out we goes. . . Spray, sir? . . . Thank you, yor 'Oly-Reverence. . . . No, sir, I never see Baby—never 'ad the chawnce, worse luck—I mean, forchunately I never 'ad to. . . . Is there eanythink else, yore Worship? . . . Iron yore 'at?—Enny studs, collars, or ties? . . . Thank you. . . . Good day, yore Reverence.

A SOAP'S FABLES.

Once a Lion was awakened by a Mouse tickling its Whiskers. He was about to smite the Mouse when the latter said, "Pray do not harm me, Mr. Lion, and some day I may be able to repay you." The Lion smiled at the idea but let the Mouse go unharmed.

One day the Lion was captured by Hunters and tied up with ropes. He fell asleep and was wakened again by the Mouse gnawing at his bonds. Feeling that one paw was free he smote the Mouse with a smite that removed it indefinitely from the scene, saying at the same time, "You here again, you little devil?" The exertion broke the ropes, the Lion was free and lived happily ever afterwards. Which once more proves that a friend in need is worth a guinea a box.

A present which any man would appreciate this Christmastide is a Wilkinson Sword-Steel Razor, made by the well-known Sword Cutlers to His Majesty. Messrs. Wilkinson, of 53, Pall Mall, S.W. The firm supply all kinds of razors, ordinary, safety and a strong-beard safety—the latter meets a long-felt want. Being made from the actual sword-steel, the blades of these famous razors can be relied upon to keep their velvet edge.

POLITICAL PATTER.

MR. WALTER RUNCIMAN.

(*Sings*) I wish I were a farmer,
I do, I do!
I think I'd be more fit to boss
The Board of Agriculture,
Don't you? *I* do!
I *wish* I were a farmer!

Of course, I never ought to have been appointed President—not really. But there you are—things happen like that My father was a big shipowner, you see, *and* a Liberal and I—well, I was just following in father's footsteps, following the dear old dad, when Asquith said to me one day: "Look here, Runcy, we want a new President for the Board of Agriculture. Lord Carrington's tired. He's going to have a snooze in the Upper House. You might take this job over, will you?" "But I don't know anything about farming," I said. "I couldn't tell you the difference between a sheep tick and the tick o. a clock." "Pooh!" he said—just like that: "Pooh! That's nothing. All the chiefs of the great departments are the same." So I took it on. But—the time I've had! Oh, lor! you'd never believe! Of course, first of all I had to learn things. I had to learn the difference between sheep scab and strike "scab," or Dublin blackleg, as some people call it. Then I had to learn to distinguish a plough from a harrow, and the reason why you may smoke at the plough but mustn't smoke at Harrow. (*Trombone*). Mind, you'll tear it! Take potatoes. Well, they've got eyes! What do you think of that? And those that have the most eyes they call *seed* potatoes—see? But potatoes are tubers, really. Don't tuberlieve it? (*Disturbance.*) Potatoes don't seem to *appeal* to you. But what is sausage without the mashed? Well, having learnt that potatoes have eyes, I was next informed that corn has ears. Of course, when it was pointed out to me it struck me at once. I understood then why it was that one of my constituents said: "'Ere!" when I trod on his corn at the last election. And don't poets speak of the wind whispering in the corn? What would be the use of the wind whispering if the corn hadn't got ears? It's as simple as anything when you come to think. Then I had to learn all about animals. Ah! they were the puzzle. Take sheep. You'd never dream how many kinds of sheep there are—wethers, ewes, tups, rams, baalambs, and Australian mutton. Australian mutton is wether, really—it's always so cold, you know. Thank you. That reminds me. I once knew a farmer's daughter. Her name was Mary. I used to call her Little Mary until Barrie spoilt it with that play of his. It didn t sound respectful after that. Anyhow, she used to make sheep's eyes at me—like that. But one day I asked her what was the difference between a tup and a ewe, and she's given me the cold shoulder ever since. But, although I have learned all these things I'm not altogether qualified yet for the position I occupy, you know. And sometimes when serious agricultural problems are submitted to me for settlement, such as "Why does the turnip fly?"

(*Sings*) I wish I were a farmer,
I do, I do!
I think I'd be more fit to boss
The Board of Agriculture,
Don't you? *I* do!
I *wish* I were a farmer!

PEOPLE'S SUPPLY COMPANY.

In our issue of June 7th, 1913, we published an article under the heading, "A Dirty Dodge"—"Penny Frighteners at Half-Price," in the course of which we reflected adversely upon the methods of the People's Supply Company, of 315, Upper Street, Islington, in collecting accounts from their customers. We have now had the opportunity of inquiring into the conduct of this firm in their business. We are satisfied that they are of good standing and have treated their customers uniformly with proper consideration. We regret that we should have been misled into any reflection upon them by our dislike for "penny frighteners," a form of demand with which we are now satisfied this firm is not associated.

Mark Our Football Coupon Just Like a Voting Paper—With a X

CAN YOU DEPEND ON A DOCTOR?

A REMARKABLE WORK.

By Dr. ANDREW WILSON.

Can you always depend on a doctor? It is a serious question that vitally concerns everyone, and particularly all parents. In nine cases out of ten the answer is "No!" Some time or another an accident will happen when he is out of reach, and in such a case what would you do?

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Dr. Andrew Wilson, the famous physician, has written a book, the "Modern Physician," specially to provide this knowledge. It tells in simple language everything about the commoner ailments of life. It tells you not only how to cure sickness, but also how to avoid it. It has articles on the choice of food and clothing; on air, exercise., sleep, and many other subjects of vital importance to the preservation of health, including invaluable advice on first aid in every possible emergency.

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One whole volume is devoted to that most important of subjects, the health of women and children. This section is of inestimable advantage to any mother in maintaining her own and her family's health. Midwifery and the diseases of infancy and childhood are all covered fully.

An Abridged Synopsis of Contents will serve to give some idea as to how complete is its plan:

Health and Disease—The Human Skeleton—General Diseases: Their Cause, Prevention, and Cure—Fevers—Chemical Composition of the Body—Digestive System: Diseases and Derangements thereof—Diseases of the Skin—Diseases of the Kidneys—Animal Parasites and the Diseases they Cause—Anatomy and Physiology of the Eye, Ear, Throat, etc.—Ambulance and First Aid Work: Directions for every emergency—The Heart—Circulation of the Blood—Diseases of the Heart and Blood—Lungs and Functions of Breathing—Principles of Hygiene—Structure and Function of the Brain—Nervous System—Infection and Disinfection—The Germ Theory—Tropical Diseases—Family Medicine Chest: Drops, Lotions, Ointments, Gargles, etc.—Home Nursing—Physical Culture—Massage—Hydropathy—Electrical Treatment—Special Features of Woman's Life—Ailments of Pregnancy—Complications of Labour—Diseases of Women—Care of Infants—Hygiene of Infancy—Infantile Ailments—The Toilet and Health.

Mr. WM. WEBB, 102, Queensland Street, Liverpool, writes:—

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"The Art of Organ Playing."
MADAME MARCHESI.
"The Teaching of Singing."
JOHN DUNN.
"On Playing the Violin."
SIR F. H. COWEN.
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The names of a few of the others sections are appended:

Course on Voice Training, Singing, and Solfeggio. On the Pianoforte. On the Violin. On Harmonium and American Organ. On the Organ. On Scientific Basis of Music. On Rudiments of Music. On Harmony and Counterpoint. On Canon and Fugue. On Musical Forms, Musical Analysis, and Composition. Dictionary of Musical Terms. The Instruments used in Orchestras and in Military Bands. On Children's Music and Musical Drill. On Choir Training and Conducting. On Congregational Music. On Musical Degrees and Education, etc., etc.

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SIR J. FREDERICK BRIDGE (Organist at Westminster Abbey) says:—

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HOW CONSUMPTION SPREADS.

A LANCASHIRE FACTORY INCIDENT.

BY JAMES SHERLIKER.

Mary Ellen is a consumptive weaver in a Lancashire cotton mill. She sticks to her work as long as she can, but every few months she is compelled to take a rest from her four looms. Her place is taken for the time by a three-loom weaver.

"Gooin' off ageeon?" says the tackler (overlooker), after strong preliminaries. "Dashed queer stuff sum of yo' are med on. 'Ow long this time?"

Mary Ellen meekly replies that she doesn't know.

"Ah, see. Ah, see. It mebbe fer yeears, or it mebbe f'rever, eh?"

And, smiling and coughing, Mary Ellen trudges home.

Being ill, she has more than the usual worker's fear of losing her place, and so she takes exquisite pains with her work. The result is a splendid average output of cloth. Now, the tackler's wages are based on his weavers' earnings, in most factories, and whenever an exceptionally good weaver like Mary Ellen wants some time off he raves.

At a quarter to six next morning the tackler was at his post near the factory door looking for late comers, *i.e.*, those who arrived after seven minutes to six, the time for starting work when the Factory Inspector was not about. In the throng he spied a three-loom weaver, a youth.

"'Ere, Bill," he called. "Tek Mary Ellen's looms this mohrnin' an' keep 'em gooin', mind."

"Mary Eillen? Why, is 'oo ill?"

"Aye, yo chump. Is 'oo ever owt else but ill? . . . Cum on, ged a move on. Ev'rythin's left streyt."

To the tackler's mind it seemed that the youth ought to have dressed his face in the broadest of smiles at the news of his temporary promotion, but as he walked, very slowly, to the weaving shed, his expression was much inclined to the serious. As a matter of fact, he did not relish the change a bit, though he didn't care to say so. He had read an article on consumption and its dangers, only the previous evening.

He stood by the consumptive girl's looms for a few minutes and pondered. . . . The overhead shafting began to revolve. . . . Now some of the looms were working. The weaver at the next set of looms, a girl, looked across, surprised, and inquired, in the lip language peculiar to noisy workshops, if he had been "tekken ill" as well as Mary Ellen.

"No, but ah might be if ah werk 'er looms," he replied.

"Rot!"

"Ah'm not so sure. It's catchin' is consumption. Read it last neet. Read it in t'paper."

The girl retorted with a derisive toss of her head and a chuckle.

"Jus' like a mon!" she added. "'Ere, Sally"—addressing a fellow-weaver—"look at 'im! Skeered! Fetch 'im t'smellin' salts afore 'e faints. . . . Look out! . . . There's a microbe clim'in' oop 'is weskut."

Bill, whose face had suddenly assumed an unnatural colour, was understood to say that if only Mary Ellen had been as careful years ago as he was trying to be at that moment she would not have been in the pickle she was in.

"Mary Ellen's bin kissin' these shuttles (drawing threads through) fer mons. Ah'm domned if ah'll kiss 'em till they're disinfected."

Ironical laughter greeted this announcement, whereupon Bill, by this time in no mood for quiet argument on the subject, started the looms with a violent jerk, and muttered something about all women being fools. But a few moments later, when the "weft" in one of the looms snapped, he kept his word. Instead of kissing the shuttle and drawing the broken end through, he stopped his three looms and went in search of the tackler.

That official burst out laughing. "Fer Godd's saake get back to yo're three looms," he said.

Bill went. Five minutes later Mary Ellen's germ-ridden shuttles were being kissed by a girl weaver who thanked Heaven, and the tackler, and Bill, for the advancement.

"Disiffected!" the tackler was saying to a colleague. "Ah give 'im a dressin'-down proper w'en 'e talked to *me* about shuttles bein' disiffected. 'E reads too blessed mooch; that's wot's wrong wi' 'im."

Messrs. Mappin and Webb, Ltd., announce an issue of 150,000 5½ per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each at a premium of 6d. a share, being the balance of the authorised issue of 450,000 cumulative preference shares, of which 300,000 have been applied for and allotted. Payable, 5s. on application, 5s. 6d. on allotment (including the premium of 6d. per share) and 10s. on the 15th January, 1914. The original firm of Mappin Bros. was formed in 1810, and the firm of Mappin and Webb in 1860. The present company was formed in 1908, and the combined businesses with those of the subsidiary companies have continued to show remarkable expansion. The average profits (before the formation of the company) for the years 1905 to 1907 were £46,597 15s. 3d., and since have been as follows:—1909, £48,431 15s. 9d.; 1910, £61,472 11s. 2d.; 1911, £68,358 11s. 5d.; 1912, £77,749 15s. 4d. Dividends paid on ordinary shares for years 1909-10-11-12, after paying debenture interest and preference dividends, were 7½ per cent., 8 per cent., 9 per cent. and 10 per cent. respectively. The proceeds of the present issue will be applied in the purchase of new and improved plant, and extension of factories, in the payment of premium for the extension of the leases of 158-162, Oxford-street, and 1 and 2, Winsley-street, London, to a period of 9.9 years, in the purchase of additional leasehold premises and erection of buildings thereon, and in repayment of loans.

RONEO LIMITED.

ALL RECORDS BROKEN.

The 6th ordinary general meeting was held on the 10th, at the office of the Company, 5-11, Holborn, E.C. Mr. William T. Smedley (Chairman) presided, and in moving the adoption of the report, said the balance sheet could be considered very satisfactory. So far as profits were concerned they had a remarkably steady history, as the figures would show. In 1909 the profits were £17,244, in 1910 they were £29,457, in 1911 £32,701, in 1912 they doubled the first year's working, being £34,735, and in 1913 they amounted to £39,290. This record was one of which the directors might well be proud, and with which the shareholders thoroughly satisfied. Having dealt with the balance sheet he stated that the stock had increased to the extent of £5,817, no more than was required by the normal increase in their business. The fact that this stock was turned over three times a year showed the business to be in a very healthy condition. The profit and loss account showed that they had a sum of £4,739 more than last year. They had allocated £16,000 to reserve, an increase of over £4,000 on last year. £2,000 had been appropriated to a new branch establishment and £1,000 towards a reserve against patterns, patents and leasehold premises. £5,000 was placed to a general reserve fund, which now stood at £15,000. To provide for possible depreciation, etc., they had placed to reserve £6,500. They had written off £1,500 for expenses in connection with the increase of capital and had appropriated £5,421 in respect of dividend on the 6 per cent. preference shares. They now proposed a dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares. The report was unanimously adopted.

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Get a box of "Sanadones."

Mrs. G. ALLEN, 20, Lenton's Avenue, Balaam Street, Plaistow, E., writes:—
"I have been a terrible sufferer from Chronic Rheumatism for years. A little while ago I sent for your free test of 'Sanadones,' and the benefit I felt was wonderful. Then, after sending for a large box, the increased benefit I derived was so marvellous that I can scarcely find words to express it. My limbs are already far less painful and more useful. I can now move them about, a little while ago they were stiff, swollen, and useless. I can also once again hold pen and pen it in my hands. Naturally, I am recommending your marvellous 'Sanadones' to all my fellow sufferers who, of course, can see the benefit you have conferred upon me. I am very grateful to you for your great kindness."

"Sanadones" are sold by all branches of Messrs. Boots', Taylor's Drug Co., Ltd., Timothy White, Lewis and Burrows', Hodder, Cockburn, and Spite, at 2s. 9d. per box. All other high-class Chemists stock "Sanadones" or will gladly get them for you. If unable to obtain locally, send P.O. for 2s. 9d. to the proprietors: Sanalax Ltd. (Dept. 127), Vine Street, Clerkenwell, London, E.C.

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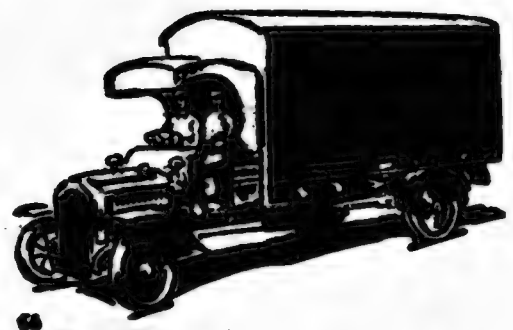

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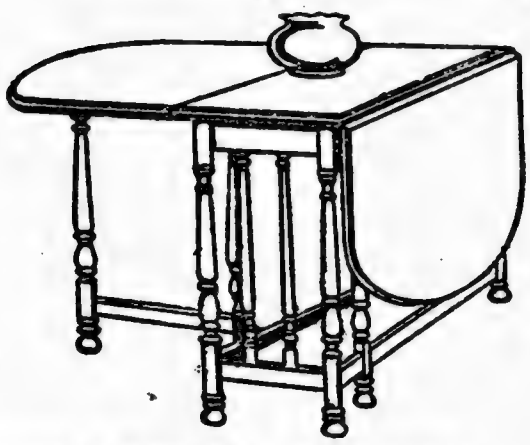

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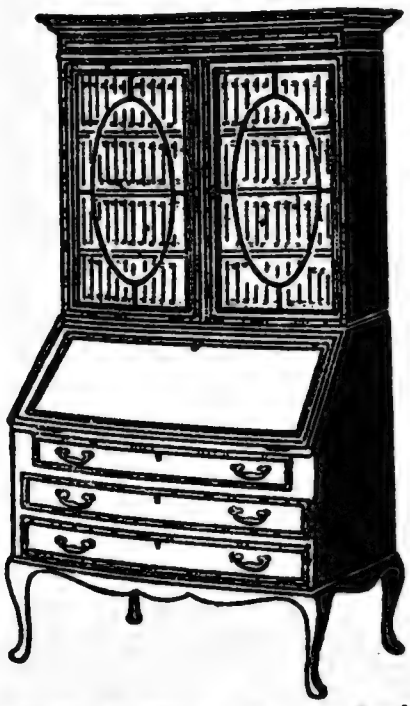
100	2	5	0
200	4	10	0
500	11	5	0
1,000	22	10	0



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[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when writing regarding previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of INQUIRIES *received, consequent upon the continual growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag,"* AND ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

CORRESPONDENTS desiring INFORMATION *should place their questions in* CONCISE *form and refrain from sending* VOLUMINOUS DOCUMENTS, *at any rate until asked for them. The Editor is quite unable to devote the time necessary for perusing and considering the scores of folios which correspondents sometimes send.*

For Financial and Insurance Replies, see page 952.
For Sporting Replies, see page 956.

DR. V. G. BEST, who has recently practised in Grimsby, near a place called Waltham (not Waltham Cross), wishes us to state that he is not the Dr. Best referred to in the article, "Doctors in Default," published in our issue dated November 22nd last.

MRS. W.—In the circumstances, the husband could not be compelled to contribute to the support of the children unless such children became chargeable to the parish. A man cannot claim the maternity benefit in respect of illegitimate children, but if the woman is herself insured she can do so.

"OLD BILL COFFEY" (Bedford Row) asks us to make it perfectly clear that he is in no way connected with Coffey, of the General Labourers' Union. Our correspondent is the Secretary of the National Union of Bookbinders, a respectable body which liquidates its liabilities.

H. L. H. (Altrincham).—You are evidently a very new reader. Why must a politician belong to *some* Party?

J. O. (Paddington) and OTHERS.—Your friends must look very foolish now, mustn't they?

R. I. P. (Worksop).—They have both been deaded for a while.

W. H. (Putney).—Afraid your artificial pearl is too artificial to be of any commercial use. It is merely a pill-like substance coated metallically. Have you tried to sell it as ammunition for pop-guns?

"SHAKESPEARE II." (E. C.).—"Taffy was a Welshman, Full of awful cheek, Taffy made me buy stamps, Fourpence every week. I went to Taffy's house, When Taffy was in bed, I up with the benefits, And whacked him on the head." It was a shocking breach of etiquette, but fortunately he was not hurt.

D. O. (Mile End, E.)—The incident you relate is suspiciously like a case of illegal distraint. You should lay the facts before the Mile End police magistrate.

B. L. (Knightsbridge).—You do not say in what circumstances M. and G. Clyde, Clyde Chambers, 73, Dunlop Street, Glasgow, of whom we had had previous complaints, have 23s. 3d. of yours which they retain without sending you the value. Your remedy is to sue them.

"INQUIRER" (Northumberland).—"Surely a Midland Railway police officer is entitled to 15 or 20 minutes for meals in eight hours?" We should say so, certainly; but what if somebody waits till he goes for food and then runs away with a locomotive?

A. J. (Gt. Titchfield Street, W.)—We cannot understand your letter. We are sorry, but it is not our fault.

W. L. (Cricklewood).—"Let every man or woman suffer the tortures they inflict on helpless dumb animals." Ah! The mercy of our law is that people don't always suffer what they deserve.

A. T. B. (Glasgow).—We cannot say. Why not write to the chief of the Marconi Wireless School, Strand, London?

DR L. A. (Birmingham).—Not at all surprised that E. Newbound, 20, Queen Square, Leeds, is still at his old swindle, so we suppose it must be paying him. Marvellous!

D. H. (Edinburgh).—It is only such people who talk in such a way. It is not worth our while to concern ourselves with an anonymous writer in your local evening paper.

"ANTI-SOCIALIST" (Home Fleet).—What next shall we be called upon to answer? "Was Tom Mann, the Labour leader, ever prosecuted and fined for selling beer adulterated with water?" Ask a policeman.

"MARY" (Reigate).—Your poetic sentiments about Signor Marconi do credit to your heart.

J. S. (Southampton) and OTHERS.—Another variety of the Spanish Prisoner swindle. You will have nothing on your conscience if you let the poor girl perish in her agony without lifting a hand to save her from her doom.

"MAC" (Nigeria).—We have thought and thought and thought again; on account of the variable distances covered by our circulation throughout this universe, and therefore the variable times it takes mails to come and mails to go, we cannot as yet hit on a suitable overseas "Bullets" competition. Live in hope, don't worry.

"REGULAR READER" (Roker).—Not surprised you are surprised that women employed making bricks by machinery at the brick-works you name ("the machine pushing the blocks of clay on to them without giving them time to breathe") are paid only 3d. per hour, and that "they have to put out about 5,000 bricks from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m."

A. A. (Barnsbury, N.) and OTHERS.—The Alhambra Warehouse Company, Free Street, Bradford, has been "a fit subject for our paper" on several occasions. They are trick advertisers. Demand the return of your deposit.

C. N. (Clapham Park).—So the way to spell it is "Woolloomooloo," is it? Ours not to reason why, ours not to make reply, ours but to spell and sigh, "Wooloomooloo."

MRS. D. (New Cross).—Really, if we began investigating grievances in regard to competitions in which we are not concerned, we should not have time for our own job.

J. S. K. (Wakefield).—Sorry we cannot give you any information how to open a glass and china shop; if you had asked us how to shut up a fried fish shop we could have told you.

H. B. (Patricroft).—Are not you making much ado about very little?

F. C. L. (Workman's Hall).—We referred to the distribution of the Scott Expedition Fund at the time. Refer to your back numbers.

C. G. and OTHERS (Leicester).—Another reason for reading JOHN BULL regularly and inducing your wife to read it as well. The photo. enlargement trick you speak of is nearly as old as Adam.

"MAJOR" and OTHERS (Liverpool).—If we have to answer this question many times more we shall run out of patience as well as ink. McKean is one of a gang of Yankee adventurers and impostors.

"CROYDONIAN."—Yes.

W. M. (Derby).—Our definition of a quack is: "Any person who professes to cure human ills without possessing training or capacity to justify his pretensions." On this definition you must judge whether Dr. Alabone is worth a trial or not. He is an ex-member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and his being struck off the Register does not in the slightest degree affect his knowledge, experience, or capacity, supposing they are to be inferred from his former qualification.

J. S. (Everton).—Our hat off to you. The only material difference between you and Milton is that he is deceased.

"ANGLICAN" (Swansea).—If you cannot prove the vicar's verbal promise we do not think you will have much success in a law court.

"ESTHER" (Kensal Green).—There does not appear to be much that is new in your screed *re* suffragettes.

H. D. (Pontecanna).—Not knowing the evidence against you in the case, we cannot express any opinion.

"INQUIRER" (St. John's Wood).—Write to the Secretary of the Civil Service Commission, Burlington Gardens, London, W., in the first place.

J. G. (Leominster).—We do not concern ourselves with other people's literary competitions, having quite enough to do managing our own.

W. H. (Great Harwood) and OTHERS.—If you were a regular reader of JOHN BULL you would know we have exposed the lying swindler scores of times.

£1,000 MUST BE WON. Great First Round Cup Tie Contest. See page 947

J. M. (Glasgow).—We have severely handled most of the firms doing the bonus tea fake. The Scotch ought to be too canny to fall victims to it.

E. S. M. (Shenley) and OTHERS.—Servant girls receiving "Captain Rand's" printed rubbish should put it in the fire.

A. B. (Church).—According to your own account, the horror of your situation is that you sent 30s. for six pullets, and in return received six hens over two years old. Send back the ancient birds and sue for the money.

T. K. (Bramshaw).—Write to the Commissioners of National Insurance.

"CHAUFFEUR" (Blackpool).—In your opinion it is very wicked for anybody to advertise in the Lancs. *Daily Post*, as somebody has done, for a "Chauffeur-Groom to assist in garden and be useful." Cheer up. That chauffeur will be driving the car one of these days and thinking so much about the cabbages and peas that he will forget to see a brick wall, and his employer will probably be taken to either the hospital or the cemetery.

C. G. J. (Kantenville, Canada).—As you say, "Away with rant and cant and let us reason together"; but the question whether a Girton Girl should have several husbands or none has disappeared from our purview awhile.

G. W. (City Road).—Glad you have found "a two-leaf newspaper, entitled *John Bull*, dated August 21st, 1821, price 7d." Keep it as a heirloom in the family. We have enough of it to paper Spurgeon's Tabernacle.

T. D. (Edgbaston).—Cannot read your screed. Get somebody else to repeat your inquiry; you write like a tipsy spider crawling out of a treacled inkpot.

W. H. C. (Clapham).—Communicate with the inspector.

T. A. (Hull).—It looks like a case for prosecution, but you had better take the advice of a solicitor as it is not possible for us to advise you without being conversant with all the facts.

J. P. B. (Newry).—We advise you to have nothing to do with Mr. Denison Light, of the so-called "Institute of Natural Therapeutics," 73, Queen Victoria Street, London. Mr. Light is, among other things, a magnetic quack.

W. S. (Finchley).—We agree with the writer of the paragraph that "You might wait for hours on the steps of the Senior United Service Club without catching sight of a single General who still cultivates whiskers on his retiring pension." A still greater rarity would be a General who cultivates whiskers on his gilt-edged securities.

R. R. (Sale).—The "best" firm is merely comparative to the work required to be done. You had better ask one of the local cinematograph managers to give you an appointment and take his advice.

MRS. Y. (Manchester).—"Will you please answer me in your correspondence column what is Sara Bernhardt's profession, is it actress or vocalist?" Certainly. Actress, of course; but for all we know to the contrary, she may be able to sing like a canary. But some people say that she sings her words.

DON. S. (Colombo).—As we have said scores and scores of times, it is a concern for fleecing fools.

J. A. A. (Hull).—All we can tell you is that we have been assured on the authority of gentlemen of substantial position that the "Sanitary Training College," High Holborn, W.C., is worthy of confidence.

T. C. (Birmingham).—We do not take the slightest interest in, and cannot give you any information concerning the genuineness of, the advertising competition you name.

G. A. (Walton).—We know nothing whatever about the Isle of Pines. Inquire of the commercial company which is booming it.

T. B. L. (St. Leonards).—Our advice to you is not to leave the situation you have to fly to another that you wot not of.

C. McK. (Edinburgh).—As the clergyman you mention is now dead, and no public interest would be served by dissecting his character, we propose to let him rest in the peace he may, or may not, deserve. Thanks, none the less, for the information.

A. B. (Petworth).—The happy bride should hang on to the groom's left arm—so as to leave his right hand free to prevent the rice from running down his collar.

W. W. (Chadwell Heath) asks "Which Party, Liberal or Conservative, were responsible for the working man's vote?" This is the first we've heard of it. We know something about the £10 occupation franchise, the service franchise, freehold, household, and copyhold, etc., etc., but "the working man's vote," if there is such a thing, we are entirely ignorant of. What constitutes a working man?

J. H. R. (Camborne) wants to know the address of our recent correspondent, "Constant Reader," who complained of the English Record Co.'s methods. We cannot give it without permission.

"INGLES" (Rosario de Sta. Fé) confirms our description of "An Argentine Hell." We do not speak without our book.

J. H. G. (Workington) tells us he has recently had dealings with Davis and Co., the advertising jewellers, of 26, Denmark Hill, London. He has our sympathy.

R. H. (Liverpool).—Douglas is not the only seaside resort where "all kinds of dodges are practised on the visitor" by boarding-house keepers.

"BETSY BLUNT" (Northampton) asks us how many apples were eaten by Adam and Eve, and offers to tell us if we don't know. We cannot state the exact number, but they ate enough to give them the pip, anyway.

H. T. W. (Hornsey, N.)—Advise your lady friend to have nothing to do with Stuart and Simpson, of 38-39, Eastcheap, E.C.

A. W. D. (Hove).—We are by no means convinced that Jacobs, the Dublin biscuit manufacturers, merit all the hostile criticism they have been subjected to.

J. H. (Brompton Road, S.W.) asks "whether it is safe to do business with the Gradual Payment Co., of 76, Bishopsgate Street Without, E.C." It probably is, provided your payments are not too gradual.

"COLLIER" (DONCASTER).—You should send your complaint to the Postmaster-General. Certainly the sub-postmaster had no right to delay the delivery of letter and parcels on account of rain.

B. H. (Canterbury).—You have no remedy against Watson and Co., of Teakwood Buildings, Otley Road, Bradford, Yorks. Although their advertisement is calculated to deceive, it says that the bale of drapery will be sent "*on receipt of 2s. deposit and the balance* (18*s.*) *at 2s. per month.*" It is by means of such ambiguous advertisements that such firms batten on the poor.

E. C. C. (Soho) sends us a poetic racing forecast, to be sung to the tune of "Mississippi." Thanks, but we never sing our racing forecasts—we whisper them.

J. A. McG. (Glasgow) sends us a packet of "Captain" Rand's nauseous flapdoodle, and says, "I wonder what this Captain's game is." In the case of Glasgow, diddling Scotch fools out of their siller.

"STELLA."—Surely you have read our countless criticisms of the British Clothing Club, of Oldham Street, Manchester. We are surprised that a newspaper man should succumb to their cajoleries.

W. S. (Paignton) is a paralysed girl of 16, who has been moved to write some verses about our "Bullets" and turkeys, of which the following is a specimen:—

> See here, see there, 'tis all the flare—
> JOHN BULL'S "Bullets" go everywhere:
> With a flip, flap, flop, the turkey will trot,
> Have a good try and it may be your lot.

We wish we could send her one.

W. C. (Hackney).—You should write to *Mary Bull* about your four children.

B. W. (Chingford) tells us a horrible tale of what becomes of the "swipes" or dregs in beer glasses. Perhaps some intelligent barman will tell us whether they really are run into a spare barrel to be served up again, or are poured down the drain. Until we know for certain we shall eschew draught, and stick to bottled, beer.

D. I. H. (Bootle).—*All* so-called mail order experts should be given the frigid optic.

W. L. (Southampton).—Although you were able to extract £1 4s. 2d from the P.O. Home Safe "without opening or injuring the safe in any way whatever," it enabled you to save that amount, which you otherwise might not have done. So, even if it is not burglar-proof, there is something in it—at least, there *was*.

A. G. (Portsmouth) says there is a parson in Portsmouth who holds a beer licence, and a Nonconformist minister "who runs a baccy shop near his chapel." Well, what about it?

"BLACKDOWN" (Hants).—We do not know the General Protection Society, of 31, Conduit Street, Bond Street, W., so cannot say whether it would be wise for you to send them any more money.

"ARTIST" (Addingham) writes: "I am a youth of sixteen years earning my bread and helping to support a large young family by the sweat of my brow in a weaving-shed. I have a remarkable talent for painting." In the evenings, when he has wiped the sweat from his brow, he might develop his artistic talent at the local technical institute. There is plenty of time to think about the Royal Academy.

"INQUIRER" (Stoke).—We cannot tell you where to apply for assisted passages to New Zealand—nor where to apply for assisted passages home again, which you will probably want as soon as you get there. Better write the Emigrants' Information Bureau, 34, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

C. F. K. (Manitoba).—Many thanks for your verses on "Party Cant." When our tame poet saw them he turned green with envy.

(A large number of replies are held over.)

Another Special and Extra Mauve Coupon Prize—£100 This Time. See page 947.

Bull's Eyes.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION :—

Wasn't the Wick result a ray of light for the Government?
Did Bombardier Wells "take it too easily"?
Isn't the clamour about forcible feeding all "stuff"?
Do you realise that *your* chance is waiting for you on page 947?
Isn't a "display" advertisement what the Army needs?
Will Ulster's "arms" be sufficient to protect its "head"?
Aren't Larkin and his "fiery cross" both rather "put out"?
Will the rise in the price of tea cause a storm in the tea-cup?
Are the militant leaders going abroad to get a rest, or to escape one?
Why does the Government appeal to the "land" instead of to the "country"?
Haven't the purchasers of the Wells-Carpentier film "little" to show for their money?

* * *

OCCUPATIONS TO SUIT VARIOUS FOLK :—

The Sun—Gilder.
Parson—Tie-maker.
Cupid—Bus(s) conductor.
Darwin theorist—Tailor.
Telegraphist—Wire-puller.
The Divorce-Judge—Cutter.
Astronomer—Music-hall manager.
Le maitre d'ecole—French polisher.
The public executioner—Noose-agent.

* * *

NONSENSE RHYMES WITH A GRAIN OF SENSE :—

If you begin to play with Love,
A vulture will replace the dove.

The parson's dress looks spic and span,
But shorn of this—he's but a man.

Pity, without the helping hand,
Is humbug of the coarsest brand.

Working the grindstone day and night,
Whets the Scythe of the Man in White.

If five are offered you for one,
Turn over quick before you're done.

Wedlock's a heav'nly state for two;
But multiplied, the Devil's due.

Smile to the World, and hide your woes,
For if you're down, you'll feel its toes.

* * *

Honesty makes the best poverty.

* * *

Charity discovers a multitude of sinners.

* * *

Will the letter-box if the postmen strike?

* * *

Adam's rib put the whole world out of joint.

* * *

When we find we can't, we say we don't want to.

* * *

Monday was invented to use up the cold mutton.

* * *

They now refer to the play at the Strand as "Mr. Lang Wu."

* * *

Conscience is a diary where we enter all we want to forget.

* * *

A philosopher is a man who lies to people to make them happy.

* * *

The name of the French robber-poet is appropriate—Villon.

* * *

Everyone ought to be honest—once he has provided for his family.

* * *

"No Arms for Ulster," we read. But this will not prevent them kicking.

* * *

"A regular knock-out," as the defeated bidder complained to the auctioneer.

* * *

"Trees are good for health," says a doctor. Barring the sycamore, we suppose.

* * *

"New Stock Exchange Sensation," says a headline. Not a rise in prices, surely?

* * *

"Killed by a chestnut," we read. Really, the comic journals should be more careful.

* * *

The fire brigade at Chalford are threatening to strike. Something new for firemen to be "put out."

* * *

A scheme by which you can learn French while you shave is being advertised. A rather cursory method, we imagine.

* * *

The Mayor of Brightlingsea was recently elected in a belfry. The others were tolled off.

* * *

A schoolboy has been fined 11s. 6d. for stealing apples. One tanner is a better punishment.

* * *

The latest fashion for ladies is a little boa round the ankles. To keep instep with the calf?

* * *

A white pheasant has been shot in Suffolk. One of those whitewashed by the Unionists, perhaps.

* * *

"A real man wears a moustache," says the Kaiser. But we have seen a fierce one on a dummy.

* * *

Alcohol will probably be the new fuel for motors. But the stuff now in use smells a bit rummy.

* * *

"Skating is good for health," says a doctor. But you get a nasty dose when you take the floor.

* * *

Objection is made to Mr. Churchill's flying trips. But he always will be a high flier.

* * *

Love is like hunger. As soon as you are cured of it, you do your best to catch it again.

* * *

Burglars who broke into Harry Lauder's house drew a blank. What else did they expect?

* * *

Lord Euston objects to the bounder in the hunting field. But not when it has four legs.

* * *

A New York lift dropped at the rate of two miles a minute. We shouldn't call that a "lift."

* * *

The ideal City lunch is a sponge cake and a glass of water. The water is to swell out the sponge.

* * *

"New Carmen at Covent Garden." At the Opera, please; the good old ones are still at the Market.

* * *

Lord Haldane says he was assured Canada is better than Auchterarder. Small praise is no recommendation.

* * *

A lady writes that a Christmas present should be better than it looks. Some ladies look better than they are.

* * *

The chairmakers of High Wycombe are on strike. The usual stiff backs and black legs, we suppose.

* * *

Seeing the Tube megaphone man, a little boy asked, "What is he drinking out of that big tumbler?"

* * *

To confer a title on Mr. Booth, M.P., would be an act of redundance. He already has a Handel to his name.

* * *

"There is no honour among thieves," says Mr. Paul Taylor. Except when "His Honour" is trying them, of course.

* * *

A barn at Dunmow, while being prepared for a whist drive, was burned to the ground. Nevertheless, it was played on.

* * *

A writer says a boy of sixteen is out of place in a City office. But if he is in a City office, how can he be out of place?

* * *

Dr. Brandes says Nietzsche's contempt for women was the result of experience. Yes, familiarities breed contempt.

* * *

A league of Ohio girls permits kissing only by a man who has taken a girl out twelve times. Thirteen is lucky for once.

* * *

A Clacton clergyman has been preaching sermons in blank verse. Quite a change from some sermons all blank and no verse.

* * *

Mr. Justice Neville wants to know how the Devil amuses himself on Sunday. He goes to church and sleeps during the sermon.

* * *

Mr. Churchill advises the costermongers not to be ashamed of their calling. When we hear them calling they are bold enough.

* * *

Although the authorities at Plymouth circumvented the militants, the police did not arrest Mrs. Pankhurst without a tug.

* * *

Old Maid (to young lady who is a vegetarian: "How do you get on with the nuts?"
Young Lady: "Well—I usually mash them."

"Bullets" the POPULAR Word Competiiton—5,323 Cash and Other Prizes Weekly.

GREAT FIRST ROUND CUP TIE CONTEST.

£2,000 FOR 20 CORRECT RESULTS

In any event £1,000 MUST BE WON *Must be won*

£600 FOR NEAREST CORRECT SHORT OF FULL NUMBER.

£300 FOR NEXT HIGHEST CORRECT.

£100 FOR MOST CORRECT FORECASTS ON MAUVE COUPON.

The draw for the First Round of the English Cup is now announced. To stimulate still further the interest in "the fight for the Cup," we commence this week a Great Cup Tie Contest, with mammoth cash prizes—surpassing any offer ever made by ourselves or any periodical. We give particulars of these Record Football Prizes below, but in the first place would draw the special attention of our competitors to our

NEW WAY OF MARKING THE ENTRANCE FORM

which we have adopted to further safeguard the interests of our competitors.

On the left-hand side of the Entrance Form will be found 3 columns headed respectively "**Home,**" "**Away,**" and "**Draw.**" When forecasting the results of the matches, if you predict the Home team will win—simply put in ink, a **X** in the space provided in the Home column; if you predict the Away team to win—put a **X** in the Away column; if you forecast a "Draw" put a **X** in the Draw column. Thus there is no crossing out to do—just mark the coupon like a voting paper—with a **X**. The following examples show the new method at a glance:—

LOOK AT THESE EXAMPLES.

HOME	AWAY	DRAW	HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM
X			Bradford	v.	Reading
	X		Glossop	v.	Everton
		X	Hull City	v.	Bury

Take the above examples—if you predict Bradford, who are playing at home, to win—you must put a **X** in the Home column; if you predict Everton, who are playing Away, to win, you must put a **X** in the Away column; if in the case of Hull City v. Bury, you predict a Draw, put a **X** in the Draw column.

As stated above the matches selected are the First Round Cup Ties to be played on Saturday, January 10th, the competition closing Friday, January 9th.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

is to forecast the results of the 20 matches given on the Entrance Form on page 2 of our cover. Before making your forecasts read carefully the new method of marking the coupon as explained above.

As announced in our last issue, Messrs. Smallman & Terry, the managers of the "John Bull" Football Cup Sweepstake, have contributed £750 to our prize fund and therefore we are enabled to offer the colossal and record cash prize of

£2,000 FOR 20 CORRECT RESULTS.

The £2,000 will be paid to the competitor sending us an entrance form containing correct forecasts of all the 20 matches given which are played to a finish. If, owing to bad weather or other causes, a match is not completed, it will be disregarded—thus

ABANDONED MATCHES MAKE NO DIFFERENCE.

Should it happen that no entrance form be received giving the whole of the correct results we shall in any event award the huge sum of £1,000 in three distinct "Must-be-won" prizes, as follows:—

If no competitor forecasts the 20 matches correctly we shall pay the cash prize of **£600** to the sender of the most correct forecasts whatever the number—even if only 8 or 10, and a second prize of **£300** to the sender of the next highest number of correct forecasts. In addition we shall pay a cash prize of **£100** for the most correct forecasts sent on a Mauve Coupon taken from MARY BULL. This is a distinct and additional prize—a Mauve Coupon signed by a lady, means the sender has the opportunity of winning not only the £2,000, or £600 and £300, but also **an extra £100.** Thus in any event

£1,000 MUST BE WON.

The RULES and
COUPON
will be found on
PAGE 2 of COVER.

The competition is one of pure skill, and a test of knowledge of form. Competitors should make a point of studying the Football columns of the newspapers.

Our elaborate checking arrangements and our new method of marking the coupon safeguard the interests of our competitors in every way and render even an attempt at fraud impossible. The risk of a coupon being overlooked is totally eliminated.

YOU CAN SEND AS MANY COUPONS AS YOU LIKE.

£100 FOR A "MAUVE" COUPON

We again offer a Special and Extra Mauve Coupon Prize. This time £100 will be paid for the best forecast sent on a Mauve Coupon taken from "Mary Bull" and signed by a lady. Competitors using the Mauve Coupon have the opportunity not only of winning the £2,000 or the £600 or £300, but also an additional £100 prize. The first Mauve Coupon appears in "Mary Bull" on sale Friday next, December 19.

After you have filled up your entries for this competition, turn to page 954, where you will find particulars of "Bullets," a simple and attractive competition which you should not fail to enter. A first prize of £500 in cash is offered this week, in addition to more than 5,323 cash and other prizes value over £2,000.

THE "JOHN BULL" FOOTBALL CUP SWEEPSTAKE.

We have again to say, in reply to numerous inquiries, that we cannot receive applications for tickets in this Sweep. They must be posted direct, not later than December 29th, to MESSRS. SMALLMAN & TERRY, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND. We have satisfied ourselves that the full amount of the prize money, £15,000, is already lodged in a leading London bank, and our Editor will attend the Draw, on January 2nd.

HEARD IN THE TRAIN.

WOTERBAHT LANARK?

1ST WORKMAN: 'Ello, 'ere's ole Bill agin! 'Ow aw yer, mate?

2ND WORKMAN: I'm orl right. Donchew worry erbaht me.

1ST WORKMAN: I ain't worritin' erbaht cher, mate. I only thort chew looked a bit dahn in the marth. Wot's up? Woon't they pay aht ther merternerty benerfit?

2ND WORKMAN: Shut it! Wotcher tike my ole woman and me for?

1ST WORKMAN: I was only thinkin' you was lookin' glum, an' no wonder. Well, woterbaht it?

2ND WORKMAN: Woterbaht wot?

1ST WORKMAN: W'y, the 'leckshun.

2ND WORKMAN: Wot 'leckshun?

1ST WORKMAN: Come orf it! You cawn't git aht of it like thet.

2ND WORKMAN: I don't wanter git ahter nuthink. Wotcher gittin' at?

1ST WORKMAN: I awsk yer woterbaht ther Lanerk 'leckshun. Thet's wot I awsk yer.

2ND WORKMAN: Well, woterbaht it?

1ST WORKMAN: Anuvver nawsty biff on the ear'ole fur yore pawty, ain't it?

2ND WORKMAN: Owjer mike thet aht?

1ST WORKMAN: W'y, the Radical got beat, did'n 'e?

2ND WORKMAN: In a way 'e did. Not reely.

1ST WORKMAN: Not reely! Wotjer mean? 'E lorst ther 'leckshun, did'n' 'e?

2ND WORKMAN: In a way, yuss.

1ST WORKMAN: Wot the 'ell d'yer mean, "in a way"? Ain't the Tory won ther seat, an' won't 'e go to the 'Ouse an' vote wiv 'is pawty?

2ND WORKMAN: Cert'n'y. But thet ain't *hevrything*. It wos ther three-cornered fight wot done it. It let the Tory in. But ther 'leckshun shows a merjorerty fur the Pawty of Progress. One thars'n four'undred an' twenty-three fur progress. Thet's ther troo merjorerty, mate.

1ST WORKMAN: Git aht! It's a merjorerty of one thars'n, nine 'underd an twenty five agin ther Guv'ment, ole son. Thet's wot it is. If ther Laberites 'ad wanted ther Guv'ment candidate ter win, they'd er voted ur 'im, wood'n they? I tell yer, yore pawty's played aht. It's time they put up ther bloomin' shutters.

2ND WORKMAN: Don' chew berlive it. Bye-erleckshuns don't mean nuthink. They nearly orlways goes agin ther pawty in pah'r. Wot erbart w'en yore pawty wos in?

1ST WORKMAN: My pawty ain't never bin in, mate.

2ND WORKMAN: No, nor never will, I reckon, not if you're one of 'em. Thort chew wos a Tory?

1ST WORKMAN: So I wos, afore I cut me wisdom teeth. Now I knows better.

2ND WORKMAN: Wot's yer pawty nah, then—Larkinite?

1ST WORKMAN: Think I'm a loonatic?

2ND WORKMAN: I never sed loonatic. I sed Larkinite.

1ST WORKMAN: Same thing, mate. No; I've giv up pawty. No more dam'd tomfoolery an' red 'errins fur *me*. I'm fur bizness—an' no 'ank.

2ND WORKMAN: Wotcher mean—Bottomley's idea?

1ST WORKMAN: Yuss. I'm fed up wiv orl this playin erbaht. I've got ther fair sick of orl this blarsted jore erbart Ireland, an' ther Land, an' National Inshorance. It's orl gab an' no do. An' I ain't the on'y one wots 'ad enuff of it—not by a long chalk. Look at ther 'leckshuns. *They* tell yer.

2ND WORKMAN: Votin' fur Tories agin ther Guv'ment don't mean they want Bizness, do it?

1ST WORKMAN: Thet's jest wot it do. They vote Tory cos there ain't a Bizness candidate ter vote fur—not chet You'll see, w'en ther nex' General Eleckshun is 'eld.

2ND WORKMAN: Wishyer meant it, mate. *I'm* gittin a bit fed up, ter tell ther trooth.

1ST WORKMAN: 'Ere we aw.—Wot, er *you* beginnin ter think er bit? 'Ere, come an' 'ave a pint. We'll jest 'ave a bit erv a jaw afore we go 'ome.

KIDNEY OPERATION AVOIDED

In frightful pain and could not walk across the room. Man of 76 cured completely by Dr. Cassell's Tablets.

It would hardly be possible to suffer more severely from kidney trouble than did Mr. Thomas Moore, of 114, Lane Head, Rastrick, Brighouse Yet Dr Cassell's Tablets cured him, as they have cured numberless other sufferers, though every known means had failed save operation Here is Mr. Moore's story. He says:—"Dr. Cassell's Tablets have been worth their weight in gold to me, they saved me from having to face a severe operation for kidney disease, and I feel I can never praise them enough. I had been subject to Rheumatism from the age of 20, and about six years ago the trouble seemed to settle in my kidneys. I began to suffer terribly with my back, and became very weak and ill. I tried all sorts of things, but no relief could I get I went under medical treatment at various times, but the medicine I got did no good at all I was in awful pain at times, agony is the only word for it. I could not stand straight for pain, I could not turn in bed for pain, and I got so weak at last that I could not even walk across the floor without assistance. But the worst trouble of all, in fact, the cause of my weakness, was that I was constantly passing blood, and the loss was draining the very life out of me Often, too, there was complete stoppage, and I had to have an instrument passed before I could be relieved. The pain of that was frightful, and it was always followed by excessive hæmorrhage.

"I was told at last that I had stone in the kidneys, and that the only remedy was operation Well I was afraid of that. I am seventy-six, and I thought an operation would simply mean the end of me. I was thinking about it when I chanced to read of a lady at Nuneaton having been cured by Dr. Cassell's Tablets of exactly the same complaint as I was suffering from. I got some at once, and seemed to feel easier after a few doses, so I continued. The result was complete cure without any operation, and to-day I feel as well as I did ten years ago. I have even gained two stones in weight, and am told I look more like sixty-six than seventy-six."

Mr. Moore, Brighouse.

SEND FOR A FREE BOX.

Send your name and address and two penny stamps for postage, etc., to Dr. Cassell's Co., Ltd. (Box A24), Chester Road, Manchester, and you will receive a trial box free.

Dr. Cassell's Tablets

strengthen and restore every organ of the body, re-establish the vital forces, give tone to the nerves, and generate new life for the whole system. They act more brilliantly than any other medicine known, in cases of Nervous Breakdown, Nerve and Spinal Paralysis, Infantile Paralysis, Neurasthenia, Nervous Debility, Sleeplessness, Anæmia, Kidney and Stomach Disorders, Children's Weakness, and General Bodily Fatigue, Brain Fag and all run-down conditions. They are quite safe for even the youngest child or most delicate invalid. All chemists sell Dr. Cassell's Tablets at 10½d., 1s 1½d., & 2s. 9d. The 2s. 9d. size is the most economical.

HAIR GROWING EXPERIMENTS EVERYONE MAY ENJOY.

A Further Fascinating Chapter in the Romance of Research for Hair Beauty and Health.

How You May not only Save Your Hair from Disease, but Make it Grow More Beautiful and Abundant.

Mr. Edwards, of "Harlene Hair-Drill" fame, to-day publishes suggestions for a series of scientific experiments which will enable everyone to test the health of their hair, and, if it is weak or impoverished, to commence—without a penny of expense—a course of natural hair culture that will assure healthy hair in abundance.

The right reveals many hair blemishes.

Readers will remember the startling effect of the Royal Hair Specialist's first experiments. Those announced here are even more sensational.

HAIR YOU COULD WIND ROUND "BIG BEN."

Just as an instance, Mr. Edwards selected a woman's hair grown by "Harlene Hair-Drill"—a beautiful wealth of magnificent tresses that was the admiration of all who beheld it. He compiled the length—the total length—of these hundreds of thousands of hairs, and found that if placed end to end they would reach to a height more than double that of the famous "Big Ben" Clock Tower at Westminster!

Many women reading this astonishing statement will doubt that hair can be grown so long and plentifully. Foreseeing this, Mr. Edwards, in order to prove that it is possible for any woman to grow luxuriant hair in splendid length, renews his now famous offer to send, free of charge, a complete hair-growing outfit to all applying on the special form printed below.

YOU CAN MAKE THIS "X-RAY" TEST YOURSELF.

Here is another experiment, a startling "X-Ray" test advised by Mr. Edwards—a test you may carry out at home—which will give you some important information concerning the real condition of your hair.

Sit or stand facing an electric or incandescent light, hold up your hair as shown in the illustration—hold it loosely—and look through it. You will discover a disquieting number of "split" hairs, a quantity of dust particles adhering here and there, a twisted entanglement of unhealthy strands, falling hair, and many other signs of hair disorder.

You will also find that whilst some hairs are long, many more are short, and that there is urgent need for you to accept Mr. Edwards' Hair-Growing Gift.

AN IMPORTANT EXPERIMENT EVERY MAN SHOULD MAKE.

Next comes an experiment which men, as well as women, should make, for abundant, free-growing, healthy hair is equally important to both. It will quickly tell you whether your hair is as it should be.

Comb the hair thoroughly on the top, at the sides, and at the back for at least two minutes, with a clean comb. Then lift the hair in various parts of the head and see if there is the least trace of thinning, if the hair is receding from the temples, or if there is the least sign of greyness or loss of colour.

Having done this, examine the comb carefully.

Should you find—and you are almost certain to—the least trace of a powdery dust, or see any hairs, or even *one* hair clinging to the teeth of the comb, if the brightness of the comb has been at all dulled in the process of combing, then your hair is out of health and needs a tonic restorative.

Before its condition gets worse send for Mr. Edwards' free "Harlene Hair-Drill" Outfit.

WHAT YOUR FREE HAIR-GROWING OUTFIT WILL DO FOR YOU.

Post the special application form below, with 3d. stamps for carriage and packing, and, without expense or obligation, you will receive the complete "Hair-Drill" Outfit by return.

It comprises:

(1) A trial bottle of "Harlene" a food for the hair and stimulant for the hair roots, which will make your hair soft and glossy and invest it with beautiful lustre and luxuriance.

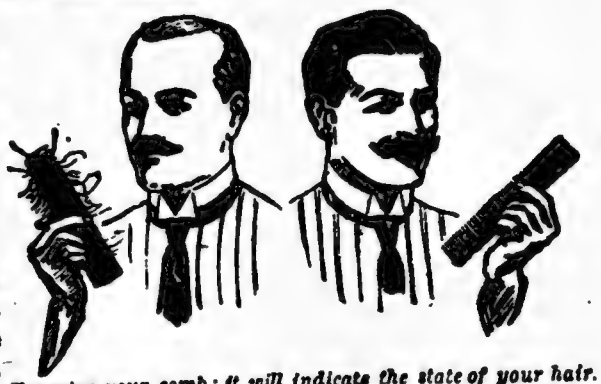
(2) A packet of "Cremex" a real Shampoo Powder, which dissolves scurf, allays all scalp irritation, and prepares the head for "Hair-Drill."

(3) Mr. Edwards' "Hair-Drill" Manual, containing rules, the practice of which for only two minutes daily, will make and keep your hair healthy and abundant, free from all signs of Baldness, Greyness and hair poverty.

You can then commence immediately to:

—stop the hair falling,
—rid hair and scalp of dandruff and scurf,
—restore lustre and "life" to the most faded hair,
—stop the hair splitting,
—make the scalp feel clean, fresh and comfortable,
—and obtain hair strength and beauty.

"Harlene" is obtainable of all Chemists and Stores, in 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. 6d. bottles, and "Cremex" in 1s. boxes of 7 powders, single powders, 2d. Or they may be obtained direct, post free on remittance. Foreign postage extra. Cheques and Postal Orders should be crossed.



Examine your comb; it will indicate the state of your hair.

FREE OUTFIT COUPON.

To EDWARDS' HARLENE CO.,
104, High Holborn, London, W.C.

Please send me the Complete "Harlene Hair-Drill" Outfit as offered. I enclose 3d. stamps to pay postage anywhere in the world. (Foreign stamps accepted.)

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

JOHN BULL, Dec. 20th, 1913.

CITY NOTES.

[*For Financial and Insurance Letter-Box, see page 952.*]

The Stock Markets.

Rarely have conditions been so favourable for a general improvement at the commencement of the New Year as they are at the present time. Quotations are unduly low in all departments, and a feature is the prevailing shortage of stock, which has made dealers, especially in Home Rails, extremely nervous. Canadian finance seems to be going from bad to worse. The new Canadian Loan, although offered on such very favourable terms, is still quoted at ¾ discount, but what is even more significant is a substantial fall in Canadian provincial and municipal securities, ranging from four points downwards. The Canadian Pacific bonus scheme has fallen flat, and now the Grand Trunk is in the market for a big debenture issue. It is time that the Canadian Government, for the sake of its own credit, should put a brake on these issues. There was never any real basis for the premature boom in Yankees, and the passing of the Newhaven dividend has severely shaken the confidence of American investors in their own railroad stocks. There have been two outstanding features in the miscellaneous market—one the Allsopp revival, and the other the collapse in National Steam Cars. The Allsopp rise may possibly have some justification, but in any case it is a highly speculative stock. The collapse in National Steam Cars is not due so much to the reduction of the dividend as to the very inadequate provision made for depreciation. In other words, the company is mortgaging future profits to pay present dividends. All sorts of rumours of financial trouble are gaining ground regarding the position in Mincing Lane. No doubt that centre has been badly hit by the fall in rubber and rubber shares, but we believe that most of these rumours are greatly exaggerated. We still think, however, that it will be a case of the survival of the fittest so far as the plantation rubber companies are concerned.

Variety that isn't Charming.

A great outcry has been made during the year that variety theatres have had to fight serious competition on the part of cinema companies, and whilst the latter do not appear to be making appreciable profits for division amongst shareholders, some of the former are certainly in a bad way. The Variety Theatres Consolidated, Limited, which owns the Euston, South London, Chelsea and Walthamstow halls, and works in close association with the Oxford, Tivoli and Pavilion, has been obliged to pass its dividend, a profit of only £2,091 having been earned, depreciation to the extent of £2,000 being deducted, leaving only £91 to be carried forward. It seems inexplicable to us, even after making every allowance for cinema competition, that the four halls mentioned should not be able to earn more than an average weekly profit of £10 each. The directors complain that their artistes' salary list has increased by some £6,000; but this can hardly be accepted as an excuse, for if the artistes who demand higher remuneration are unable to draw correspondingly larger audiences, they should not be engaged. Furthermore, the competition plea does not hold water, seeing that the Company has not paid a dividend since 1909, when cinema companies were still in their infancy. And, lastly, the recent report of the Victoria Palace, Limited, which owns only one hall, surrounded by three picture theatres, shows a profit of £20,028, which enables the directors to pay 10 per cent., to redeem £4,000 debentures, and to carry £9,127 forward, equivalent to another 10 per cent.

Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society.

For some time past the affairs of this Society have been subjected to a searching Government investigation, and it will be gratifying to our readers to learn that the result of the final investigation is a complete vindication of the directors against the charges made, and which were of a serious character. The business of the Society on this side should greatly benefit as the result.

Atlas Assurance Co.

Owing to rumours of contemplated amalgamation with another Company, we invited the directors to issue a definite statement on the subject without delay. Our request has so far met with no response. The public, therefore, must await developments. Meanwhile, it would be interesting to learn the reason advanced for the steady buying of the Atlas shares.

"Tommy" Lawson Again.

The *Financial News* assures us that every word of the full half-page advertisement signed Thomas W. Lawson which appeared in its issue of 25th ult., and "all the typographical directions, came by cable, in plain English, *viâ* the lines of the Commercial Cable Company." We are obliged for the information, but it confirms the view we recently expressed that Mr. Lawson would not go to such great expense in a matter where he poses as the guide, philosopher and friend of the British investor, unless he had a very considerable axe of his own to grind. With this our contemporary has, of course, nothing to do; but the public *has*, and this is the reason we have referred to the matter.

The City Editor as Lecturer.

Mr. Charles Duguid, the well-known City Editor of the *Daily Mail* and other Harmsworth publications, is continuing his able lectures under the auspices of the Institute of Bankers. His latest theme embraced prospectuses and the making of markets, and he seconded our frequent appeals to the Committee of the London Stock Exchange to circumvent the schemes of promoters who "introduce" shares in new companies without publishing a prospectus. We regret to observe that Mr. Duguid's addresses are not reported so fully as they deserve to be.

More Canadian Knocks.

That Canadian Government loan of £4,000,000, to which we referred last week, proved a miserable fiasco so far as the public are concerned, the underwriters being left with 83 per cent. of the issue. But it has not prevented the City of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, from trying to raise £200,000 in 5 per cent. debentures at 90—a mere bagatelle—but even in the case of this small issue the underwriters have been landed with two-thirds—which means that the total public subscription was under £70,000! The event of the week, however, has been the proposal of the Canadian Pacific Railway to issue £10,500,000 in 6 per cent Guaranteed Land Certificates at 80. This gives a return of 7½ per cent., and the cash is so urgently required, either by the company or its bankers, the Bank of Montreal, that it has to be paid up in two instalments—one at the beginning of February and the other on March 2nd next. Prodigious, is it not? In a little over twelve months the Canadian Pacific will have raised about £30,000,000 (sterling, not dollars), or more than all the railways of the United Kingdom have required in three years. This is surely "frenzied finance" carried to its uttermost limit, and nothing but the most urgent necessity could counsel such a policy of despair. Another point to consider is that, while Canadian Pacific Common shares yield barely 4½ per cent. and have no guarantee, the Guaranteed Land Certificates will yield 7½ per cent., as already mentioned. Moreover, 3 per cent. of the present dividend is paid from the assets now to be transferred to the Land Trust, and we cannot see how shareholders are to get the dividend twice over. This aspect of the matter has been carefully ignored in the numerous official statements and interviews required to expound the scheme, but we are afraid the price of the shares will have to be drastically readjusted when the last £8,000,000 odd is definitely secured. This is a matter, of course, that primarily affects individual Canadian Pacific shareholders, but the furious pace of Canadian borrowing generally will soon have more far-reaching effects.

Cement Extraordinary.

A correspondent sends us the prospectuses of the Eastern Counties Portland Cement Company, Limited, dated October 6th, 1913, and of the Northfleet Portland Cement Company, Limited, dated December 16th. In each case the share capital is £1,000, and power is taken to issue £10,000 in Profit-sharing Bonds. The officials are the same, and in each case the board consists of Messrs. Frederick Thornton Lionel Melville Claude Vardon, and Henry Greig. The statements in the prospectuses are practically identical, and even the reports of an alleged expert, Mr. J. C. Lawrence, of 145, Fenchurch Street, E.C., show merely trifling verbal alterations. Profit estimates differ only a few pounds, and the agreements entered into are with the same people and are to the same general effect. When cement can bind together all these people and propositions so far apart as Breydon Water, Suffolk, and Northfleet, Kent, it must have qualities that are not fully recognised by the Associated and British Portland Cement Manufacturers, whose names are freely used in the prospectuses. But it also suggests that any money obtained might be gripped so tight that a considerable amount of moral or other force would be necessary to recover it. And so we should advise our readers to keep it just as tightly in their pockets.

The Biggest Football Prizes ever offered—£2,000. £600, £300, £100—£1,000 MUST BE WON.

Large and comfortable **Easy** Chair, beautifully upholstered and covered in tapestry or cretonne. Height 3 ft. 4 in., seat 26 in. wide.

£2 2s. 0d.

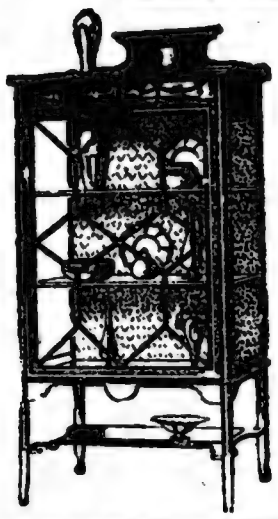
New Tea Room,

Smoking, Lounge and Writing Room now open, for the convenience of our customers, **Free.**

I take a practical view

of the problem of furnishing. Whenever I want anything for my house, or my office, I make a point of going to the 'Midland' for it, because at the 'Midland' I can be certain of getting the best value for every shilling I spend.

If you are unable to call during business hours, kindly write or 'phone appointment for any time best suited to yourself. We will retain a qualified salesman to attend to your wishes.

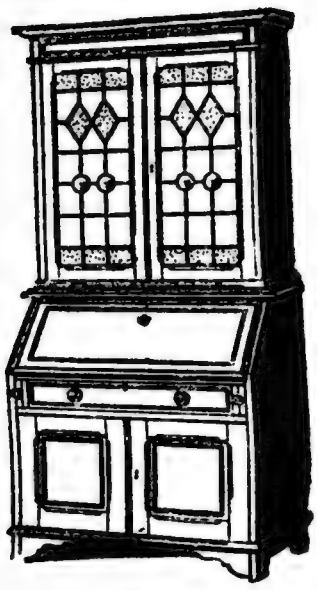


Sheraton style China Cabinet, Boxwood Stringing and Inlay, the back and shelves lined with brocade.

£4 4s. 0d.

Money buys more at the 'Midland'

You see, the 'Midland' are actual manufacturers. That enables them to save their customers the heavy charges imposed by middlemen. And their stock of over £100,000 worth of furniture gives you the widest possible choice of the best designs of all periods, the finest work of all nations.



Handsome Fumed Oak Bureau Bookcase, 3 ft. wide, 6 ft. 10 in. high. Beautifully inlaid and fitted with leaded light doors, fall front, drawer and cupboard in lower part.

£4 14s. 6d.

Ideal Terms

Town or Country.

We charge nothing for Credit—no deposit, no interest. And, **should the purchaser die, the furniture becomes the absolute property of the wife without further payment.** All furniture purchased on our Ideal Terms **is insured against fire.**

Worth	Per Month	Worth	Per Month
£10 ..	£0 6 0	£50 ..	£1 8 0
£20 ..	0 11 0	£100 ..	2 5 0
£30 ..	0 17 0	£200 ..	4 10 0
£40 ..	1 5 0	£500 ..	11 5 0

Larger amounts pro rata.

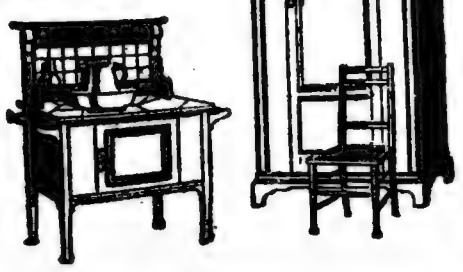
10% additional discount for cash.

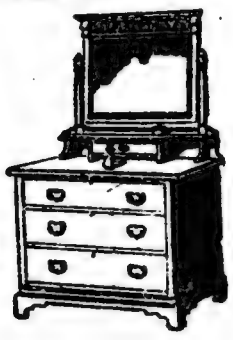
Write for the New Book of Furniture.

This new and very handsome volume — the finest and most comprehensive guide to Furnishing ever published—contains over 1,000 photographs actually taken in our Furniture Salons. The book will be sent free on receipt of a postcard with your address. **Write for it to-day.**

Customers' Fares Paid.

Customers' fares paid to town on all orders of £20 and over. Country orders packed and delivered **Free.**





Well-made Bedroom Suite in Oak, comprising Wardrobe, Dressing-table, Washstand, and 2 Chairs. Beautifully finished in rich antique brown, a real bargain. **£11 17s. 6d.**

Midland

Furnishing Company, Ltd.,

Contractors to H.M. Crown Agents for the Colonies,

15 to 23 Southampton Row, Holborn, W.C.

Seven Doors from Holborn and Holborn Tube Station.
One minute from British Museum Tube Station.

Hours—9 till 8. *Saturdays—9 till 1.*

Governing Director: **GEORGE MICHAEL,** *who has been associated with the business for 10 years.*

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE LETTER-BOX

Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 52, New Broad Street, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

A Postal Order for 1s. must accompany each Financial or Insurance Inquiry.

CONSOLIDATED OIL FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA.—H. H. (Elland), H. A. P. (Bognor).—We can only repeat that we regard the shares of this undertaking as a very attractive speculative investment.——C. C. (Harlesden).—We are not responsible for the opinions expressed by any other journal, and we have no reason to modify the favourable view we have throughout taken of the prospects of this undertaking. Besides oil, the Company possesses, amongst other things, valuable mineral rights. We are sure that the South African Petroleum Exploration Syndicate, of 80, Coleman Street, E.C., would be delighted to purchase the shares at the prices you mention.

DIVIDENDS.—J. R. C. (Hull).—Quite legal. Dividends may be paid out of realised or estimated profits.

OTTOMAN BONDS.—GELE (Denbigh).—We think your best course is to communicate with Messrs. Cunliffe, Russell and Co., of 10, Rue du 4 Septembre, La Bourse, Paris, who are by far the largest dealers in this class of security.

ST. CECILE MUNICIPAL CASINO CO.—E. O. C. (Doncaster).—In the absence of further information, we are not disposed to recommend an investment in these shares at present.

ROUMANIAN OIL WELLS.—PALATINE.—We should hesitate to advise a working man to invest in any shares in which there was the slightest risk, although we think the Company has good prospects of success.——SEVERN, J. H. (Birmingham).—We have formed a favourable opinion of this undertaking.

PANAMA BOND.—R. B. C. (London).—The publication you mention has, we believe, ceased to exist, and unless you possess actual scrip for the Bond, we are afraid you must look upon your money as lost.

NAKAMUM ASPHALT AND OIL.—M. H. S. (Southpool).—The shares are not worth buying at 4s. 9d., or at any other price. You cannot be a regular reader, or you would have seen our recent exposures of this concern.

CONSOLS.—TROTTER.—The only thing you can do is to hold for a recovery. We do not recommend the sweepstake you mention.

JOHN BULL BANK.—DEPOSITORY (Dulwich).—We think you cannot do better than place the facts before the manager of the John Bull Bank, Old Jewry, London, E.C.

PREMIER OIL AND PIPE LINE.—W. H. R. (Shrewsbury).—We are afraid that the brokers are within their rights, and you must therefore either sell the shares or take them up.

MIDLAND AND NORTHERN INDUSTRIES.—MORLAIS.—We are unable to ascertain any particulars regarding this Company, and it is not the kind of investment we should recommend.

LIMITED.—AMERICAN.—Yes, they mean practically the same thing, but if you tell us the exact title of the concern, we should be able to give you a more definite reply.

CANADIAN DEVELOPMENT.—A. McA. (Gourock).—We are not enamoured of Canadian companies at the best of times, and we certainly do not recommend you to take an interest in the one you mention—even as a speculation.

PORT OF PARA BONDS.—INDEFATIGABLE.—There is no particular reason for selling these Bonds. They are, however, only a second-class investment.

NEW RIETFONTEIN.—CLIVE.—We have repeatedly pointed out the unwisdom of placing all one's eggs into one basket, and this applies especially to such speculative investments as mines. The New Rietfontein has been one of the disappointments, and the shares have, of course, suffered from the depression which has prevailed in the South African Mining Market during the past twelve months. We think, however, you had better hold for an improvement.

STEAMSHIP INVESTMENTS.—APPRENTICE.—It is not our practice to recommend provincial brokers, and this kind of investment is a matter of negotiation. At the same time, we would point out that the steamship boom is now on the wane, and, in our opinion, prices are more likely to go down than up.

ANGLO-AMERICAN OIL.—T. R. (Lichfield).—We prefer the shares of the leading oil companies which are British-managed, and in which you will find plenty of scope for speculative investment.

SOUTHERN CROSS WHALING.—M. A. P. (Tidworth).—We regret that we are unable to obtain any information about this undertaking.

NAGOYA BONDS.—C. N. B. 29.—These Bonds are only a second-class security, but there is no reason for selling at the moment. The decline in price has been in sympathy with the downward movement in most investment securities.

SYNTHETIC PRODUCTS CO.—G. A. H. (Rochdale).—When this Company was issued we severely criticised the prospectus, and we certainly do not recommend an investment in the shares. You do not say exactly what information you require.

INCOME AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION.—W. V. (Basingstoke).—Have nothing to do with these people, against whom we have frequently warned our readers.

RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE CO.—K. P. (Fulham).—The business of the Company is honourably conducted, and as the directors have decided that the claim does not come within the provisions of their policy, we should be inclined to accept their offer of £15, if they will not pay more.

LONDON AND MIDLAND INSURANCE CO.—MAC.—The shares are not quoted, and no dividends have been paid. The shares are speculative, but offer scope for appreciation, although we should not regard the holding as quite suitable for prudent investors.

EQUITABLE HOUSE PROPERTY.—F. J. (Brighton).—We do not consider the House Purchase policies issued by this Company a desirable medium for the investment of savings. You had better take out an Endowment Life Assurance policy with one of the leading offices.

PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.—F. J. D. (Evesham).—We are not favourably impressed with their House Property Certificate "Ballot Section." You are offered a surrender value of £10 9s. 10d. for £26 paid in—a profitable deal for the Association, but a poor investment from your standpoint. We can only repeat that these certificate values are inadequate and inequitable, having regard to the risk undertaken. We should accept their offer and apply the proceeds towards the purchase of an Endowment Assurance policy in the other office you mention.

SCOTTISH LIFE ASSURANCE CO.—W. H. (Aberdeenshire).—Strong financially and well managed. You will be quite safe in effecting an Endowment Assurance with them. The premiums are a little higher than the rates charged by some of the leading offices, but against this the Company has an excellent bonus record. For the double Endowment policy, apply to the Gresham Life Assurance Society, St. Mildred's House, Poultry, London, E.C.

RELIANCE FIRE AND ACCIDENT ASSURANCE CO.—H. P.—You insured against sickness and accident a few years ago, and being a miner you are now informed that the policy has been cancelled, "the directors having decided to discontinue miners' risks." We have frequently called attention to the power taken by this class of Company to discontinue accepting premiums in respect of their policies, and although you may feel aggrieved, you must bide by their decision, as you cannot claim a return of any portion of the premiums you have paid.

UNITED FRIENDLY ASSURANCE COLLECTING SOCIETY.—M. S. (Oldham).—The agent did you a bad turn when he induced you to transfer from the British Legal to this Society, who now inform you that you have no claim against them. This may be so, but we think you should take the advice of a local solicitor before accepting their decision as final.

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CO.—F. L. (Hastings).—You say the agent was aware that your mother was suffering from paralysis at the time her life was insured. You had better write the head office and ascertain if this condition was made known to them. If not, they would be justified in refusing payment in the event of a claim arising.

BUILDING SOCIETY.—MRS. C. (Welling).—Having given notice of withdrawal seven months ago, you are informed that you will have to wait your turn, as there is "no ready money in hand." The rule states that "depositors shall be paid in rotation according to priority of the expiry of their notices." This means that you must wait until it is convenient for the Society to pay you. You had better ask the secretary to give you some idea when you may expect to receive your money. We are constantly advising against making deposits with the general run of Building Societies. The ideal form of deposit investment is provided by the "John Bull" Bank Transferable Deposit Notes, which carry interest at 5 per cent. per annum, the notes being payable three months from date of issue or at any time thereafter.

FIRST DUTCH INSURANCE CO.—F. C. B. (Bournemouth).—We think it is due to the policy-holders in this country that a representative of this Company should be located here to deal with and answer inquiries. Unfortunately, there is no way of compelling the directors to adopt this course, and all that correspondents can do is to continue to communicate with the Hague. The whole position appears to us to be extremely unsatisfactory.

SCOTTISH TEMPERANCE ASSURANCE CO.—D. J. R. (Rhondda).—Quite safe for the kind of policy you require. Obtain quotations also from the Century Insurance Co., 27, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA INSURANCE CORPORATION.—J. F. H. (Belfast).—The policy having been in force for about a year only, we should be inclined to cut the loss and take out a fresh one with another office. No portion of the premiums is returnable.——X. (London).—We fear there is little hope of the Corporation pulling through its difficulties, and it seems inevitable that a call will be made on the shares not fully paid, or that the Corporation will seek amalgamation with another Company. If a Surrender Value has accrued, we should be disposed to accept it and take out a policy with one of the stronger Companies.——E. C. (Prestwich).—"The Commercial Union," which guarantees the policies, is a strong and well-managed Company. You had better ascertain if a Surrender Value is payable, and then decide whether to hold or take out a policy with another Company.

SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND AND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—AYLMER.—(1) A reduction in the face-value of a policy is not encouraged by any of the offices, as it has the effect of disturbing fixity of contract. In any event, commissions having been paid on the larger sum, some abatement will have to be made to prevent loss accruing to the Society. The better plan would be to re-arrange the insurance for the sum you mention, and pay their charge for meeting you in the matter. (2) Apply to the National Freehold Land and Building Society, Moorgate Street, London, E.C.

SUN LIFE OF CANADA.—B. R. D. (Paris).—It is making notable headway, and is favourably viewed by insurers on both sides of the Atlantic. The invested funds exceed 9 millions sterling

INSURANCE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—NOTICE TO OUR READERS.

Owing to the enormous number of enquiries we receive on Insurance matters, our readers will appreciate the difficulty which confronts us in giving prompt replies. Indeed, the congestion has become so great that we have decided to depart from the rule we have hitherto observed of replying only through this column, and to answer by post. Correspondents, therefore, who fail to find replies to their enquiries on this page may expect to hear from us by letter with as little delay as possible.

Mark Your Football Coupon Like a Voting Paper—Simply put a X

TO CURE CATARRHAL DEAFNESS AND HEAD NOISES.

Persons suffering from catarrhal deafness and head noises will be glad to know that this distressing affliction can be successfully treated at home by an internal medicine that in many instances has effected a complete cure after all else has failed. Sufferers who could scarcely hear a watch tick have had their hearing restored to such an extent that the tick of a watch was plainly audible seven or eight inches away from either ear.

Therefore if you knowsomeone who is troubled with head noises or catarrh, or catarrhal deafness, cut out this formula and hand to them, and you will have been the means of saving some poor sufferer perhaps from total deafness. The prescription can be prepared at home, and is made as follows:—

Secure from your chemist 1 oz. Parmint (Double Strength) about 2s. 6d. worth. Take this home, and add to it ½-pint of hot water and 4 ozs. moist or granulated sugar; stir until dissolved. Take one tablespoonful four times a day.

The first dose promptly ends the most distressing head noises, headache, dullness, cloudy thinking, etc., while the hearing rapidly returns as the system is invigorated by the tonic action of the treatment. Loss of smell and mucus dropping in the back of the throat are other symptoms that show the presence of catarrhal poison, and which are quickly overcome by this efficacious treatment. Nearly ninety per cent. of all ear troubles are directly caused by catarrh; therefore, there are but few people whose hearing cannot be restored by this simple home treatment.

Every person who is troubled with head noises, catarrhal deafness, or catarrh in any form, should give this prescription a trial. There is nothing better.

BY APPOINTMENT

No Xmas Party is Complete

without

Chivers' Jellies

FLAVOURED WITH RIPE FRUIT JUICES

All the Children love them

Write for illustrated recipe booklet describing many ways of using Chivers' Jellies

The Orchard Factory, Histon, Cambridge.

COMPETENT MEN

are always in demand, and we always have a large number of positions open for men possessed of Special Ability—technical or otherwise. If you are possessed of such ability, and have a character which is proven or provable, write us to-day or call.

HAPGOODS Ltd., Employment Experts, 167-8 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

GREY HAIR.

A Simple Harmless Method which causes Grey Hair to vanish like magic. No "staining" the hair by dye concoctions, but the pigmentary cells become revitalised, and produce from colour the same shade as in earlier years. This is the one Genuine Prescription that restores the colour by a natural process. The remedy is harmless, and will help develop a strong and beautiful growth of hair. A Special

TRIAL BOTTLE FREE

of charge a bottle has at the address below, or the same will be sent in a plain sealed package on receipt of two penny stamps for postage, etc. Address—Mrs. Mary K. Thurman, Suite 271, 8 Mortimer St, Regent St., London

The Smartest Army in the World!

The "CLEMAK" users

enjoy, every morning, a close, quick, comfortable shave. The keen cutting edge of the Clemak Sheffield-steel blades makes shaving a positive pleasure, which the simplicity of the razor enhances. Cleaned in a second—stropped in a minute—nothing to remove or adjust.

Obtainable from all Cutlers, Ironmongers, Stores, &c., or post free on receipt of price from the Clemak Razor Co., 17, Billiter Street, London, E.C.
SEND FOR BOOKLET.

CLEMAK Safety Razor 5/-

£500 "BULLETS" FIRST PRIZE!

Biggest Weekly Prize in any Competition

1ST PRIZE! **£500** **1ST PRIZE!**

2nd Prize	3rd Prize	20 Prizes of	50 Prizes of
£50	£25	£2-10-0	£1 EACH.

250 PRIZES	4,000 OTHER PRIZES	1,000 PRIZES
OF 5/- EACH.	VALUE £900	OF 2/6 EACH.

Bullets can only be constructed from any of these 40 Examples:—

MERRY CHRISTMAS
MARRIED COUPLES
FILLING THE STOCKING
SHORTER HOURS
UNDER THE MISTLETOE
BOXING DAY
A POOR SHOW
HOME COMFORTS
A FAST GAME
TOPICAL SONG
STUFFING
A PANTOMIME REHEARSAL
BETTER PAY
STRIKERS
NASTY TASTE
A SOFT THING
LEARNING THE TANGO
CATS' HOME
NOT TAKEN SERIOUSLY
ON LEAVE
INVITES DISASTER
GOING TO EXTREMES
SILENCE REIGNS
ROTTEN LUCK
EXTRA SPECIAL
WINKED AT
A GOOD MATCH
SERVED HOT
UNSETTLED
WITHOUT CAPITAL
NEARING THE END
IF SUCCESSFUL
INFLAMMATORY SPEECHES
SLOW COACHES
UNADORNED
HEAVY BILLS
UGLY BUSINESS
FEEDING THE CHICKS
BEASTLY NUISANCE
GOING WITHOUT

5,323 PRIZES THIS WEEK

HOW TO MAKE BULLETS.

First choose any of our forty examples. Then give two words or three words having some bearing on the example chosen. The FIRST and LAST word selected MUST begin with ANY OF THE LETTERS in the example chosen. If three words are selected any word can be used as the middle word.

For instance, if you take the example, "NOT TAKEN SERIOUSLY," and take the letters "T" and "U," using the word "questions" as the middle word, you can make the Bullet "TOMMY'S QUESTIONS USUALLY." From the example "UNSETTLED" the Bullet "LABOUR TROUBLES" can be formed. Again, if you choose the example "INVITES DISASTER," using the letter "A" as initial for both the first and last words you can form the Bullet "ASKING UNCLE'S ASSISTANCE."

Competitors may send in two BULLETS on one coupon for sixpence. But if both coupons are used a postal order for one shilling must be sent.

Competitors who have already won any prizes, large or small, in this competition, are in no way debarred from winning again.

The ink will not run if the coupon is slightly warmed before being used.

Competitors can see The "Bullets" Judges at work at any time.

Closing date, Wednesday, December 24th.

Example ——————————

Bullet ——————————

Example ——————————

Bullet ——————————

64 P.O. No. ——————

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on page 955.

Signed ——————————

Address ——————————

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

Not more than three words may be used to construct a Bullet.

This week's Bullets Coupons will also be found in "MARY BULL," dated December 27th.

Closing date, Wednesday, December 24th.

Example ——————————

Bullet ——————————

Example ——————————

Bullet ——————————

(**64**) P.O. No. ——————

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on page 955.

Signed ——————————

Address ——————————

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

If Both Coupons Are Used a Postal Order for 1/- Must Be Sent.

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS NO. 64," "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.

Write "COMPETITION" on top left hand corner of Envelope.

The Result of this Competition will appear in our issue dated January 10th.

For Rules, etc., see opposite page.

RESULT OF 61ST BULLETS COMPETITION.

FIRST PRIZE OF £1,000:—

Mr. FRED WRIGGLESWORTH,
410, Great Cheetham Street E.,
Higher Broughton, Manchester.

Example: STIRRING TIMES.
Bullet: SOCIALISM THE SPOON.

SECOND PRIZE OF £100:—

Mr. THOMAS TURNER,
49, Cecil Street, Hull.

Example: PLAYING TRUANT.
Bullet: ANOTHER SEAT UNSAFE.

THIRD PRIZE OF £25:—

Mr. L. D. LAWRIE,
Garvock, St. Boswells, Scotland.

Example. LIFE PRESERVERS.
Bullet: ISMAY—EASY FIRST.

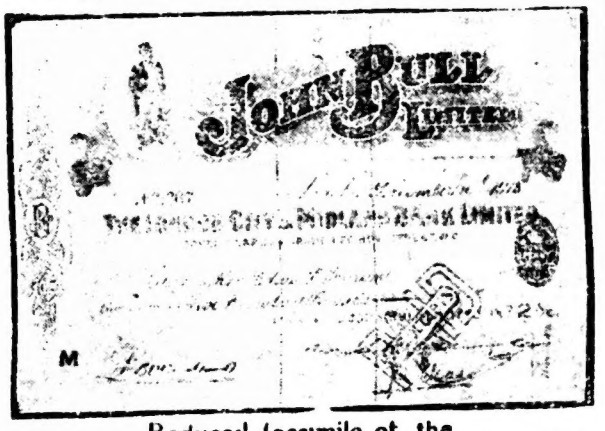
20 Prizewinners of £2 10s. each

Mrs. M. L. JACKSON, 2, Oakdene Road, Anfield, Liverpool: RASH SPECULATION—RENDERED "FIRM" SHAKY.
Mr. F. PAIGE, 115, Lessingham Avenue, Tooting, S.W.: DRINKING WATER—A "QUACK'S" TONIC.
Mrs. A. CLARKE, Bally Nolan, Kilkimo, Co. Limerick: EXTRAS—THE "FINISHING" TOUCH.
Mr. EDWIN R. IXER, 10, Kimberley Road, Cambridge: SPARE TIME EMPLOYMENT—MODERN BRIGAND'S PROFESSION.
Mrs. R. P. GILL, 8, Colwick Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham: LANDLADY'S BILL—IN BUTTONS—ALPHONSE.
Mr. DERMOT McEVOY, Cornmarket, Ennis., Co. Clare: OUR RECORD OFFER—CREDITORS WATCH RESULTS.
Mr. W. ROUND, 8, St. Peter's Road, Handsworth, B'ham: JUSTICE DARLING—LAW IN "SPASMS."
Mrs. MAUD SAUNDERS, Dalmeny, Staplegrove, Taunton: THE FIERY CROSS—CLOWN'S POKER RESEMBLES.
Mr. G. E. M. COATES, Shortwood, Mount Parade, Harrogate: OUR RECORD OFFER—ENRICHES MANY DREAMERS.
Mrs. M. WICKENDEN, 62b, St. John St., Folkestone, Kent: JAMES LARKIN—A "BOWLED" LEADER.
Mr. J. DRAPER, 4, Market Street, Pembroke Dock: THE LAST RACE—TO SAY LOSERS.
Mr. A. J. ROBINSON, 14, Shirian Lane, Attercliffe, Sheffield: UNDER REPAIR—AGRICULTURE BY RHETORIC.
Miss E. TORMAY, Whitehall Terrace P.O. Clontart, Dublin: LAST SHILLING—ALWAYS REFUSES TO.
Mr. J. S. ORPIN, 148, New Cross Gate, S.E.: MUCH IN EVIDENCE—CROSSES IN DIVORCES.
Mr. F. J. HARCOURT, 4, Pitt Hill Terrace, Edinburgh: STRIKERS' GRIEVANCES—STRUCK NOW STUCK.
Mr. F. HARDING, The Haven, Homedale Road, Bromley, Kent: ELECTION EGGS—NOT FRIED—SHIED!
Mr. J. BOYD, 1, Hannay Street, West End, Paisley, N.B.: JUSTICE DARLING—ALTHOUGH BLUNT—"SHARP."
Mr. J. T. HENSER, 37, Park Vale Road, Leicester: SPOONING COUPLES—PACHYDERMATOUS PARSON'S SPECIALITY.
Miss NELLIE WYER, 124, Church Street, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire: LANDLADY'S BILL—DREAD—READ—DEAD.

£2 10s. divided between the following:—
Mr. J. F. ROBINS, Benvenuta, Mount Road, Hendon, N.W.: SPOONING COUPLES—LANDLADY SERVING SPROUTS.
Mr. S. WALTON, Burn Brae, Langley Moor, near Durham: SPOONING COUPLES—LANDLADY SERVING PEAS.

50 PRIZEWINNERS OF 10s.

Bann, S., 3, Greenfield-st., Swansea, S. Wales.
Bennett, H., Managers Dept., Metropolitan Gas Meters, Ltd., Nottingham.
Bolt, Mrs., 3, Barnsfield-tce., Horns Cross, Greenhithe, Kent.
Bosher, J. F., 10, Dante-rd., Newington Butts, S. E.
Bradford, H. R., 7, Colehurne-rd., Earls Court, S.W.
Brewer, C., 26, Keyberry Park, Newton Abbot.
Brown, J. R., Maplebank, Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire.
Bye, G., Winchester-st., Botley, Hants.
Callaghan, P., Artillery Head Qrs., Devonport.
Chapman, A. E., 36, Queen's-cres., Reading.
Collins, J. S., 69, Clevemad-gdns, Barnes, S.W.
Craig, G., Rose Villa, Meadow-rd., Wood Green, N.
Crosse, Jr. Mrs., 187, Holland-rd., Harlesden, N.W.
Davies, A. M., 69, Sumatra-rd., West Hampstead, N.W.
Dutnie, Mrs., 31, St. Swithin-st., Aberdeen.
Edmond, S. R., 11, Kingsland-rd., Canton, Cardiff.
Edwards, C., 50, Brondesbury-villas, Kilburn, N.W.
Forbes, H. M., 5, Guildford-res., Cardiff.
Foster, A., 11, Poplar-st., Leigh, Lancs.
Foster, J. Mrs., Park House, Mansfield Woodhouse, Notts.
Gardiner, H. W., 64, Eign-st., Hereford.
Gnes, A. G., 5, Grove-rd., Sandown, I.O.W.
Glastonbury, J., Belle Vue-rd., Cinderford, Glos.
Glendening, G. Miss, 85, Sylvan-ave., Bowes Park, N.
Grant, W., 33, Aberdare-rd., Aberdare, Glam.
Greenough, C., White Barn, Broadstone, Dorset.
Hall, J. A. Mrs., 37, Emery-st., Walsall, Staffs.
Hamilton, C. Mrs., 23, Renfield-st., Renfrew, Scotland.
Hockey, E., 6, Norwood-villas, Edgbaston, B'ham.
Jones, C. H., 10, Arlington-rd., West Ealing.
Lees, F. Mrs., 71, High-st., Stamford, Lincs.
Lye, J. H., 10, Chipbourne-rd., Bexhill-on-Sea.
Loughlin, J., 79, Killigrew-st., Falmouth
Lynde-Martin, Mabel, 89, Vartry-rd., Stamford Hill, N.
Mayne, C., c.o. Mrs. Denes, Martyn-rd., Westcliff-on-Sea.
Morse, E. E. Mrs., Whitecroft Mill, Lydney, Glos.
Pearn, H. W., 8, Legate-rd., Heaton Moor, Stockport.
Price, J. O., Vron, Southsea, Wrexham. N. Wales.
Redmond, W., Annaville, Skabeg-rd., Cork, Ireland.
Rhodes, C. H., 2, Currer-st., Bradford, Yorks.
Salisbury, F., 11, Douglas-st., Ramsbottom, M.c.
Simon, T., Burgh, Lincolnshire.
Singer, A., Triscombe, Crowcombe, Taunton.
Strong, H., 41, Preston-st., Barrow-in-Furness.
Taylor, G. E., Woodlea, Hearsall-lane, Coventry.
Thompson, H., 19, Delverton-rd., New-st., Kennington, S.E.
Thornton, J. H., Spring Bank, Uppermill, Oldham.
Ward, J. C., 36, Morsdale-rd., Camberwell, S.E.
West, E. Miss, Ashbourne, Lea-rd., Harpenden, Herts.
Whalley, C., 52, Preston-rd., Chorley, Lancs.



Reduced facsimile of the
£500 "BULLETS" CHEQUE
paid to last week's First Prize Winner.

The original of the above cheque will be on view at the premises of G. Price & Son, Newsagents, High Street, Ware, for one week, commencing Thursday, December 18th.

Selection from 1,000.
2s. 6d. Prize Winners

Bingham, E., c/o 21, Bailey-rd., Doncaster.
Binns, A., 14, Arthur-st., Werrington.
Birch, J., 241, Millbrook-rd., Southampton.
Bishop, F. G., 75, Hatley-rd., Forest Gate.
Blackbeard, F., 151, Southgate-rd., Islington, N.
Blackie, Miss E., 46, St. James-av., Beckenham, Kent.
Blackmore, A. E., 6, Wilhelm-av., Wakefield.
Blackmore, F. J., 42, Woodville-rd., Ellacombe, Torquay.
Blanchard, W., 100, Perth-st., Hull.
Bone, S. H., 33, Lansdowne, Shreathan.
Bone, D. R., Offices, 33, North Parade, Whitley Bay, Northd.
Booth, D., 3, Paisley-rd., Accrington.
Bourne, Rachel, 24, Latham-ter., Southfields-rd., Dentord Park, W.
Bourne, Mrs. A., The Croshams, Chesham-ter-rd., Sutton, Surrey.
Bowes, W., 27, Moira-st., Prescot-st., Liverpool.
Boycott, G. A., 68, Bearnville-rd., Balham.
Boyd, C. W., 15, Highett., Enniskillen.
Boyd, H., Northern Bank, Ltd., Mchill.
Boyle, J., 46, Forest, South, Rogeley, Stockport.
Bradshaw, Miss E., 45, Perowne-st., Aldershot.
Brady, P. J., 56, Penthill-rd., Hove.
Branch, T., 10, Vinegar-hill, Buckfast, Devon.
Brewer, T. E., 83, Courthill-rd., Lewisham.
Brewer, Mrs. W. H., Alawal-bks., Tidworth, Wilts.
Brewster, Mrs. A., 6, Dartmouth-chamb., Tinto ...s-rd., W.C.
Briscoe, Mrs. A., 19, Pembroke-st., St. Aldates, Oxford.
Britnell, R. R., 78, Robert-rd., High Wycombe, Bucks.
Broad, H., 1, Light-lane, Coventry.
Broadbent, H. M., 23, New Oxford-st., London, W.C.
Broadhead, J., 11, Crescent, Morecambe.
Brodie, A. P., 15, Hesley Pur, Thorpe Hesley, Rotherham.
Bromage, S. A., Polkyth, St. Austell.
Brooks, A., 7, Cresswell-ter., Sunderland.
Brooks, Mrs. A., Eglon Schoolhouse, Greamont S.O., N. Yorks.
Butler, Bros., 40, Flower Market, Covent Garden.
Brough, W., Chapel-hill, Clayton, nr. Doncaster, Yorks.
Brown, A., 6, Monreith-rd., Newlands, Glasgow.
Brown, G., High-st., Buckden, Huntingdon.
Brown, H. A., 55, Malvern-rd., Dalston.
Brown, C. E., 152, Kingsman-st., Woolwich
Brown, W., 46, Stirling-rd., Hove, Sussex.
Brown, R., 5, Salt-st., Shaw, nr. Oldham.
Brown, Mrs. F., 61, William-st., Loughborough, Leicester.
Brown, T., Croston, Eccleshall, Staffs.
Browning, Mrs., 55, Canterbury-rd., Whitstable, Kent.
Bruce, R. H., 14, Mount Preston, Leeds.
Bryant, H. S., 2, Mount Street-ter., Diss, Norfolk.
Buckle, Mrs. A., 38, High-st., Brierley Hill, Staffs.
Budry, F. J., Abergwynf, S. Wales
Bullough, J., 82, Lower Bridge-st., Bolton, Lancs.
Bulman, R., 15, Medlock-st., Liverpool.
Burch, Mrs E., 88, Spa-rd., Weymouth
Burne, J. H., 29, Graham-st., Penrith.
Burnham, Phyllis, 14, Loder-rd., Preston Park, Brighton.
Burns, R., 105, Main-st., Bishopbriggs, Glasgow.

Owing to lack o' space we are unable to publish a list of the 250 Prize-winners of Turkeys on this page. Complete lists can be had on application at these offices accompanied by a 1d. stamp. A list is also published in this week's "Competitors' Journal."

"BULLETS" RULES (*which must be strictly adhered to*).

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the Editor, and his special staff of adjudicators, is the best Bullet received, and the other prizes in order of merit. In deciding prizes, originality and aptness will be taken into account. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.

2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons on page 931 and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.

3. Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d. made payable to JOHN BULL and crossed —— & ——. Competitors must write their names and addresses, and the date —— of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Stamps will not be accepted.

4. Coupons must not be defaced in any manner, or have portions of another coupon pasted upon them.

5. Entries must reach us not later than the first post on the morning of Wednesday, December 24th.

6. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet received shall have careful consideration by a competent staff of qualified judges.

7. The Editor's decision on any matter in dispute arising in connection with this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

No element of chance enters into the adjudication of our "Bullets" Competition. Every coupon is judged by TWO DIFFERENT Members of our special staff of Adjudicators, who have been elected by reason of their high qualification for this work. This staff put aside all coupons which they consider sufficiently meritorious to qualify for a prize. So that, before any coupon is rejected, TWO DIFFERENT Judges have to decide that it is not of sufficient merit to receive a prize. Then, all coupons selected are considered by the Competition Editor in consultation with the Judges. In this manner the coupons are reduced in number to correspond with the total number of prizes to be awarded. The Competition Editor, again in consultation with the Judges, next selects all the lines of outstanding merit. These are placed before the Editor, who, after consultation, decides finally the order of merit. This system of judging knows a large staff of Adjudicators continually occupied the whole of the week—so thoroughly is the work done. We would point out that, by this system of judging, no award is decided arbitrarily by one mind. It is only after a line has been considered sufficiently meritorious by a BODY OF JUDGES IN CONSULTATION, all of whom are specially qualified for the work, that it can receive a cash or any other prize. As regards the principal prizes, the coupons of outstanding merit are considered many times by the Editor, and also by the Competition Editor and the adjudication staff in consultation, before the final awards are made. In a sentence, ALL coupons are read and considered, and re-read and re-considered by a specially selected staff of highly-qualified Adjudicators, under the general supervision of an experienced Competition Expert—and in consultation with the Editor. That is why "Bullets" constitute a genuine skill contest, free from any and every element of arbitrary decision or of chance selection.

Complete List of all cash and other Prize-winners in the above Competition can be seen at the "John Bull" Offices.

Racing Notes.

Prophetic.

A somewhat curtailed programme is set for discussion this week, to-morrow (Thursday) being a blank day. To-day (Wednesday) Derby will be continued. Tuesday's results will have a good deal of bearing on some of the events, but taking the races as they stand, TARMAC should win the Ashbourne Handicap Hurdle, and MISTIGRIS the Belper Steeplechase, whilst the best thing looks to be

BILL SMOGGENS

for the Derby Welter, a "flat race" over two miles and valued at £200.

After Thursday's rest we come to Hurst Park. This meeting used always to be held on the last days of the year, and the Hurst people will not appreciate the change of date. Here on Friday POYSTON has a big chance in the Three-year-old Hurdle, RORY O'MORE may take the Park Steeplechase, and

CLOSHEEN*

is in such form at present that, with a run, he must represent the best thing of the week in the Maiden Hurdle Race. On Saturday CARRIGRUE, who has come on a bit since his last outing, should win the Molesey Steeplechase. SURGE should add to recent victories by taking the Surrey Three-year-old Hurdle, and

LORD MARCUS,

who must never be missed when seen out, can win the Hampton Steeplechase.

SPORTING REPLIES.

The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not of course, for publication, but in token of good faith.

"JOHN BULL" FOOTBALL CUP SWEEP.—J. F. (Newport).—The result of the Draw will appear in our issue on January 10.——A. H. (Aberdeen).—All you need do is to send the one ticket with 2s. 6d. to Messrs. Smallman and Terry.——H. N. T. (Blackpool).—You need not be at all alarmed.——A. B. (Manor Park).—Of course, you can send the whole ten tickets in your own name.——F. D. (Manchester).—We suggest you should lay the facts before Messrs. Smallman and Terry, who, we are sure, will treat you fairly.——A. C. (Alloa).—We have had pleasure in forwarding your letter of the 8th to Messrs. Smallman and Terry, who will, doubtless be gratified to know that you "think highly of them as excellent business people."——H. N. (Bedford).—The last day for remitting to Geneva is Monday, December 29, but you will be well advised to post earlier.——"SPORT."—Our Editor has been personally to Geneva, and has seen all the arrangements in connection with this Sweep, and has also satisfied himself that the full amount of the prize-money has been duly put up at the bank.——L. W. (Clapham Common).—Unless you take the full book of ten tickets for £1 you have to pay 2s. 6d. per ticket.——C. F. (Hull).—We have already explained that Mr A. F. Smallman and Mr. H. T. Terry conduct independent football businesses, but combine for the purpose of an occasional sweepstake.——ASTONVILLE.—We advise you to register the letter containing remittance, and then no formal acknowledgment will be necessary as its receipt can always be proved.——F. B. (Cambridge).—The postage of letters is 2½d., and for postcards 1d., but we think you would be well advised to send your remittance by registered post.

"JOHN BULL" DERBY SWEEPSTAKE, 1914.—"BULLITE" (Barnsbury).—We have already announced that the management of this Sweep will be in the hands of Messrs. Smallman and Terry, of Geneva, Switzerland, and that the guaranteed prize fund will amount to £50,000—the whole of which, we understand, is to be placed in a leading London bank, whose receipt will be printed on the back of each ticket.

WHITE, FISHER AND CO. (Geneva).—Our attention having been called to certain legal proceedings in connection with which the name of this firm has been mentioned, their advertisement has been removed from our columns at any rate pending the result of the case.

SMALLMAN AND TERRY (Geneva).—R. S. J. (London).—Neither Mr. Smallman nor Mr. Terry carries on any football betting business. They confine themselves to competitions in which fixed prizes are given for the most accurate forecasts of the results of matches, and have, consequently, no interest of any kind in the result of any particular match.

"FOOTBALL CHAT."—ENQUIRER.—We cannot say who is behind this revived project, but we have reason to regard with suspicion some of the names of the published prize-winners.

SWEEPSTAKES.—F. T. S. (Barnstaple).—We can vouch for the *bonâ-fides* of Messrs. Smallman and Terry, Geneva, and Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Lucerne.

THOMAS MACDONALD (Lucerne).—J H. (Bolton).—We sympathise with you in your experience, but you should have heeded our frequent warnings against this man. We are not surprised at anything he does.

A. H. WESTWOOD (Edinburgh).—A. P. (Wakefield).—We have gone carefully into the matter, and find that the alteration in the working of the system only operates from October 24, the date when Mr. Westwood accepted, by telegram, your proposal.

H. HAMILTON AND CO. (Binningen).—W. F. (Topsham).—We have made special inquiries, but do not consider your complaint to be one of substance. You have received the amount to which you are entitled, with an explanation of the oversight. Messrs Hamilton and Co. are a respectable firm.

PATRICK O'BRIEN.—"ENQUIRER" (Notting Hill).—We understand that Mr. O'Brien does not propose to conduct any Derby Sweepstake next year, in view of the magnitude and importance of the "John Bull" Sweep, of which Messrs. Smallman and Terry, of Geneva, will be the managers. Mr. O'Brien will, as at present arranged, confine his sweeps to the Grand National, Stewards' Cup, and Cesarewitch. For further particulars you must send direct to Patrick O'Brien, Lucerne, Switzerland.

We have to repeat that we cannot undertake to adjudicate upon betting disputes, except in cases where such disputes may be referred to us by arrangement between any of our advertisers and their clients.

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Football Selections from the Principal Papers.

Matches to be played Saturday, 20th December, 1913.

In view of the enormous interest now taken in the competitions conducted by numerous papers, the following table of selections compiled from the principal football authorities will be found to be an extremely useful guide—

	Matches played on ground of first-named team.	Last Season's Result.	JOHN BULL	The Umpire.	News of the World.	Weekly Dispatch.	Competitors' Aid.	Sunday Chronicle	Sporting Gossip.	Loting.. Weekly.
1ST LEAGUE	Blackburn R. v. Manchester U...	Draw.	Draw	Draw	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home
	Bradford City v. Burnley ..	No Match	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Away	Home	Home
	Derby C. v. Newcastle U. ..	Derby won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Everton v. Chelsea	Everton won.	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Manchester C. v. Preston N.E. ..	No match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Middlesbro' v. Aston Villa ..	Draw	Home	Away	Away	Draw	Away	Draw	Draw	Away
	Sheffield United v. Liverpool ..	Sheffield won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Sunderland v. Oldham Athletic ..	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Tottenham H. v. Sheffield W. ..	Sheffield won	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Draw	Draw	Home	Home
	West Bromwich A. v. Bolton W.	Draw	Draw	Draw	Home	Draw	Draw	Away	Home	Home
2ND LEAGUE	Barnsley v. Hull City	Barnsley won	Home	Away	Home	Draw	Draw	Draw	Home	Home
	Birmingham v. Leeds City ..	Draw	Draw	Away	Draw	Draw	Draw	Home	Home	Home
	Blackpool v. Bradford	Bradford won	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away
	Bury v. Wolverhampton W. ..	Bury won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Fulham v. Bristol City	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Grimsby Town v. Clapton O. ..	Clapton won	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Away	Home	Home
	Huddersfield T. v. Leicester F. ..	Huddersfield won	Home	Draw	Draw	Home	Draw .	Draw	Home	Draw
	Lincoln City v. Notts County ..	No match	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	Draw	Away
	Nottingham F. v. Stockport C. ..	Notts F. won	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Draw
	Wolverhampton W. v. Clapton O. ..	No match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
SOUTHERN LEAGUE	Bristol R. v. Exeter City.. ..	Draw	Home	Away	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Merthyr Town v. Millwall A. ..	Draw	Away	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Draw	Home	Home
	West Ham U. v. Portsmouth ..	West Ham won	Home	Away	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Plymouth A. v. Brighton & Hove	Plymouth won	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Southampton v. Southend U. ..	No match	Home	Away	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Reading v. Northampton ..	Reading won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Crystal Palace v. Gillingham ..	Gillingham won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Coventry City v. Norwich City ..	Coventry won	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home
	Queen's Park Rangers v. Watford	Queen's Park won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Swindon Town v. Cardiff City ..	No match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home

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„ 27th	„	117	„ „	£2	2s. 8d.
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„ 11th	„	8	„ „	£31	5s. 0d.
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